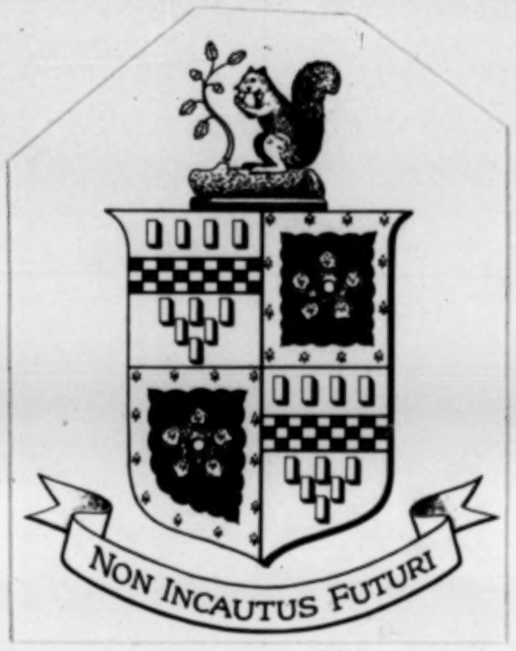
The Lee Family Papers
1742 - 1795



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1966

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[Co]llections are the handmaids of History, they fur-
nish her with facts, which are the foundation of
her work. They enable her to trace actions to their
true tho' secret motives, actions which would
otherwise appear dark & incomprehensible. They
[illegible] develope what is hid, & illuminate
[illegible] [ob]scure. Memoir writings therefore
[m]ay be of less dignity are not of
[less utilit]y than History.

~~[illegible]~~ to aid in placing the history of
American revolution in its true light
that the following Memoirs are written. The
author of them was concerned in its events
from ~~[illegible]~~ its commencement to its conclusion,
he was employed generally in the highest
stations & in the most secret & confidential
[tr]ansactions. He always preserved the original
[pa]pers & letters on which he founded the jour-
[nal] from which the following Memoirs
[are] extracted. He is therefore sure of their
[authentic]ity, as well as of his determina-
[tion that no] false direction or quiver [illegible]

The writer of these Memoirs was in London, when the repeal of the Stamp act, was agitated in both houses of Parliament. He heard Mr Pitt (a) & Ld Camden deliver those celebrated Speeches on this question which would alone have immortalized them, as Orators & [illegible]. Tho the obnoxious act was [illegible] yet he was persuaded [illegible] spirit which dictated it, & [illegible] nested near the throne was [illegible] changed. With this impression he returned to Virginia.

It was not long before his apprehensions were realized by an Act of the british Parliament for imposing duties on Tea, Paper, [illegible] to be exported to the Colonies.

(a) Never was the power & fascinat[ion] strongly exemplified than in the [illegible] enchantment on the repeal he reluctant, & Mr Charles T. Grenville sat with his head reclin[ed] at the close of the debate, so [thun]der-struck, or as the poet [illegible]

was changing the mode, but preserving the principles of the Stamp-act. This was soon & ably pointed out in some periodical letters under the signature of a Pennsylvania Farmer. These letters were written in a very popular stile, were universally read & as universally admired.

I endeavord to aid their operation in alarm[illegible]ing my countrymen by a series [illegible] under the signature of the Monitor. [illegible] course of a few months it was man[illegible]t the people of this Continent were disposed to be finessed out of their liberties & as I knew that the british Cabinet was determined to enforce rather than abandon the usurpation, I was persuaded that a very serious contest was approaching. To prepare for that was the [illegible] object of my mind. The most effectual way to accomplish this, it seemed [illegible] me, was to form a correspondence with leading patriotic men in each colony [illegible] myself to London, where the ac[illegible] I had would enable me to ob-

obtain speedy & accurate information of the real designs of the british Ministry, which being communicated to leading men in the several Colonies, might enable them to harmonise in one system of opposition, since on this harmony the success of their opposition would depend. In pursuance of this plan I went to Maryland, Philadelphia & New [illegible] men I had in contemplation were [illegible] Dulaney, who had written some Considerations on the Stamp [illegible] John Dickenson who was the [illegible] of the celebrated Farmers Letters [illegible] Leader of the Livingston party in [illegible] York, who is at present Governor of New-Jersey.

I found Mr Dulaney so [illegible] distant, that it was [illegible] vain [illegible] attempt any thing with him, [illegible] Dickensen received me with friendship [illegible] the correspondence I meditated to [illegible] place — Mr Livingston was in the Country lamenting the death of a child so that I [illegible] not see him. The time that I was to sail from England now app[illegible]

that I could proceed no farther Eastward
Embarking with one of my Brothers we
arrived safe in London.

The proceedings against Mr. Wilkes at
this time agitated the Nation. Mr. Wilkes
was the idol of the People & the abhorrence of
the King. All the powers of prerogative, all
the influence of the crown, & every practi-
cable perversion of law were employed to
subdue him. Of courage calm & intrepid, of a flow-
ing wit, accommodating in his temper
of manners & moral & conversible,
an elegant Scholar, & well read in constitutional
~~[illegible]~~ he stood the Atlas of popular opposition. Such
was the man against whom the whole
powers of the crown, were marshalling
their rage; & whom, to use the words of
Junius, the rays of royal indignation
collected upon him, served only to illu-
minate, but could not consume.

Mr Wilkes was then confind in the Kings bench as the printer & publisher of the Essay on woman. The City of London was the strong hold of popular opposition, & the Society of the bill of rights, the most active in conducting it. This Society consisted ~~[illegible]~~ of real or pretended personal friends to Mr Wilkes But some connected themselves with very different views.

Having taken this view of the political situation of England, I formed my plan of connecting myself with the opposition, & the Grievances of America with those of England. For these purposes, I became a member of the Bill of rights & purchased the freedom & livery of the City of London. By these I acquird a voice & influence in all the measures of that Society, & in the proceedings & elections of the City. An acquain

tance with Mr Wilkes soon grew into inti-
macy & confidence. The arbitrary views of
the Crown originated in the same spirit
on both sides of the atlantic. To sensible
men therefore the combining the com-
*plaints of the people of america & of En-
gland ~~was~~ appeared just & politic. I procured the
introduction of the Grievances of America
into the famous Middlesex petition;
& to keep them alive in the popular
mind, I commenced & continued ~~the~~ a perio-
dical paper under the signature of
Junius Americanus. My Brother
established himself in London, was chosen
an Alderman, & one of the Sheriffs. Our footing
was now strong & the american cause
firmly united with that of England.
During these transactions, I studied
the Law in Lincolns Inn & the Middle
Temple, & being called to the bar, prac-
tised in the King's bench & on the home
circuit. ~~a~~ This situation ~~change~~ increased my
opportunities of serving my Country.

* This was not effected but with great trouble & difficulty even in the following general words "The same discretion, has been extended, by the same evil Counsellors, to your Majesty's dominions in America & has produced to our suffering fellow-subjects in that part of the world, grievances and apprehensions similar to those of which we complain at home" — The subject was novel, supported only by m[e] self, almost a stranger & appeared to many of the Livery [...] to be foreign to their purpose.

Ld Hillsborough was then first Ld of trade. Frequent conversations with him convinced me that the Ministry were ~~fixd~~ prosecuting in their american plan & were determind to make such alterations in the Colonial governments as should accommodate them to the new system of parliamentary power. A government west of the Allegany mountains was to be constituted upon this new ministereal model, under the name of Vandalia. Dr Franklin & a Mr S. Wharton, were the principal proprie-tors in this grant & the most active Petitioners for it.

Of the disposition & intentions of the Admi-nistration I kept my correspondents in America constantly informd, with this constant injunc-tion that they must prepare to maintain their liberties at all hazards. My conduct in England, had reachd America in so favorable a light, that the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, electd me their Agent ~~for them~~ in case of the absence or death of Dr Frankli

at

"At that time, I was not personally known to any member of the house. ~~[illegible]~~ The answer to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honble Thos Cushing, was as follows.

Honble Sir, Middle Temple Jany 6th 1771.

I have had the honor of receiving your favor of the 25th of Novr 1770 intimating to me, the pleasure of the house of Representatives of Massachusetts-bay, respecting their agency.

Do me the favor, Sir, of accepting my thanks for the very obliging manner in which you have signifyd to me the intentions of the House; & suffer me to convey, thro' you, my warmest acknowlegments to the House, for this distinguished & unmerited mark of their confidence. The approbation of a free people I shall ever deem the most desirable

Letter of thanks for Agency to Mass.

of their service the most hon[illegible] especially
when flattered by the generous confidence of a Re-
presentative Body, who have uniformly
asserted the constitutional rights of their consti-
tuents & eventually of all America against the
insidious & incendiary acts of government, with
a dignity, discernment & wisdom, which
have procured the applause of the present
& will secure to them the veneration of
all future times.

Feeling the same zeal
for the sacred cause of american liberty
which eminently animates your house,
& having a lively sense of the particu-
lar oppressions of your province,
I may venture to assure you Sir, that
if ever the trust should devolve upon
me, out of the abler hands in which their
wisdom has now placed it, I will, to the
utmost of my power, watch over their
rights & co-operate with them to obtain
a redress of Grievances & to fix our
Constitutions on a clear & permanent foundation.

It is incumbent on me however, &
I willingly embrace this opportunity

of declaring that America must depend on herself for obtaining the security & redress she wishes. From this Country, a <u>secondary</u> support only is to be expected. It appears to me, that nothing can be more necessary, than that this truth should be well understood, least too much confidence in others, should lull us into a fatal security, or slacken those patriotic exertions, which to be effectual, should be ardent & unremitting. America must work her own salvation. His Majesty's present Ministers have brought the treat so fully forward, as to render unremonstrating submission perfect slavery. They have substituted discretion for law — & set the principles of the Constitution, which should be

fixd & free, afloat upon the merciless & fluctuating sea of arbitrary will. Not to oppose this most pernicious system, would be a crime; to oppose it unsuccessfully will be only our misfortune.

After Juries have been abolished by the present establishment of Admiralty Courts, or rendered nugatory by the partial conduct of prerogative Judges, — our Assemblies, to every great purpose of the Constitution, almost annihilated — property disposed of without the consent of the people, in short when the Representative part of the Constitution, the legislative, executive & judicial powers are compleatly torn from us & vested in our arbitrary rulers; what farther badge of slavery have ministers to impose or we to wear. Yet if force & lawless power must at present prevail still it behooves us to protest against that which we cannot prevent, & bear our testimony before God & man that we did not submit, without a struggle to this humiliating state of absolute bondage.

[illegible] that our posterity when they have gone [illegible] will have, may not want a spirit [illegible] example to reclaim those liberties, which their [fore]fathers so reluctantly resigned.

You will excuse me Sir, if I have [illegible] [illegible] expressions. But out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh. My heart is full [illegible] & indignation for the oppressions of my [illegible] my tongue shall [illegible] cease [illegible] there is [illegible] against them.

Convinced of the righteousness of the cause in which we are engaged, since nothing tends more to debase, vitiate, & abuse mankind than the tyrannic system we are opposing, we may well trust that heaven will bless our earnest endeavors, & direct them to a happy issue [illegible] end of all our afflictions.

That the blessing of Almighty God, may prosper all your Councils I most sincerely pray & am with great respect

[illegible] Sir &c &c

The [illegible] [illegible] agreement, by a formal act of the Mr

of New-york about this time gave a great shock to the friends of America in England, & seemed to weaken the dependence of all effectual opposition in America.

A friend to Mr. Samuel Adams of Boston, had recommended to me the establishing a correspondence with Mr. Adams, as it coincided with my views, I readily accepted his advice & wrote to him as follows.

Sir, Middle Temple Jan.y 10th 1771

Our friend Mr. —— has done me the favor of communicating to me your very obliging invitation to a correspondence. An honor which I accept with great pleasure, because I have long respected your character, tho' your person was unknown to me. It will always make me happy to submit my sentiments, on the present state of politics so very alarming to public liberty, to one, with whom I flatter myself I shall entirely harmonize in views of public good.

It will be peculiarly unfortunate if the foes of liberty & virtue are conspiring

together manifestly to subvert the Consti-
tution, the friends of freedom should stand
single & unconnected to fall unpitied sacri-
fices in an unavailing struggle. And
certainly, despicable as those are who me-
ditate our ruin, they set us an example
of union secrecy & perseverance, which
highly deserves our imitation. Nothing
escapes of the correspondence between Ld Hillsborough
& Governor Bernard. Their doings are kept
perfectly secret, & by the Instructions to the
[illegible], because dishonest, Hutchinson,
they seem determined to fix an hermetic
seal on all the springs of their movements
with you. I have great comfort however in
perceiving with what sagacity your house
developes their designs, & the firmness with
which you oppose them. Even the plausibility
of a Hutchinson is not equal to the task of
evading that vigilance which marks the
representative of your province as the real
guardians of the Peoples rights.

In that truly respectable [illegible]
Since you Sir, stand eminently distinguished
as a friend to liberty I have long been
to you for your wise & spirited exe-

with deference, without having had an opportunity
of offering you my thanks. Be in the favour to
accept them now, & be assured that whatever
may be the event of the contest, they who have
stood so nobly forth, in defence of the liberties
of their Country, will have their reward in
the applause, at least, of all the worthy part
of mankind.

The infraction of the non-impor-
tation associations with you, has operated
here, like an Opiate, on all, but the Enemies
of America. It has either accomplished their ex-
pectations, or quieted their apprehensions so as to
make them believe the american opposition en-
tirely annihilated. It is plain however that
our Enemies are not satisfied, since they
are strengthening the hands of oppression with
you, & taking every precaution to render
their despotic system as permanent as
it is pernicious. We have therefore now
little to expect from the public here; &
still less from the leading men in this
Nation. From this number however
I am bound in truth to except the
Ld Chatham, Shelburne & Camden
Col. Barre who very sincerely

wish

wish, as I well know, to restore to us, unviolated, the Constitution as we formerly enjoyed it.

Two evils have arisen from the manner in which the associations have been broken, which I am much afraid are irremediable — the loss of character here with the public, & the destruction of that confidence & harmony among the Colonies so essentially necessary to unite their efforts & render them successful in the common cause. To regain the opinion of the public here, & re-unite the affections & operations of the Colonies, is a task, however arduous, that must be undertaken. I can hardly think that the best plan of opposition will otherwise succeed. Might it not effect this to establish a correspondence among the leading men of each province that you might harmonize in

any future measure for the general good, in the several Assemblies. Unanimity among yourselves will render you formidable & respected here.

I observe that those who write in the public papers here against your town, are furnished with very speedy & accurate intelligence on all political affairs with you, which they communicate in such portions & manner as may best prejudice the public & promote their purposes. I have often lamented the want of authentic information to refute them, where from the general complexion of their story, I conjectured it was fraudulent & false. It will not however do to hazard one's conjecture on these grounds, because being once wrong would fix mistrust on every future attempt. I shall therefore be always oblige'd to you for such intelligence as will enable me to detect their falsehoods & defend the province & the town from their unjust aspersions.

The character you give of Mr. H—h—n is exactly conformable to the idea I had formed of him. The lust of power not worthy of being dignify'd with the name of Ambition, the animating principle of his conduct; & levity the mould in which he casts it.

the public acts shew him to be a devoted tool of the present government, & I could not brand my bitterest foe with a more odious ~~[illegible]~~ appellation. I am &c &c

At this time disposition of the Court of Spain seemed so inclined to war, that tho' it was little the wish of the Ministry to hazard their situation in that field as it formerly was that of Sr Robert Walpole, yet the bold proceedings of the Spaniards seemed to render it hardly avoidable. The Ministry were constantly goaded to it by the opposition as a rock on which they must be wrecked. Every one knows by what a shameful submission they appeased the wrath of Spain.

The manner in which the non-importation agreement had been violated in America sat heavily on my mind. The bad consequences of it appeared alarming in proportion to the high expectations which were founded on it. I was deceived both in my expectations & apprehensions. There are indeed so many unforeseen circumstances which defeat the best concerted political projects, that a

experienced politician will build upon them with extreme caution.

The anxiety of my mind, dictated the following part of a letter to Mr. John Dickenson, dated Jan.y 10th 1771.

—— From this pleasing prospect, I must now turn to the melancholy view of our political state. When I speak of my Country it is in the despair & grief of my heart. — She is undone. That virtue which alone can save her does not exist. There is, in my apprehension, a fatal sympathy between the Merchants & the People. The former would never have hazarded such copious importations, had they not been assured, that the latter would purchase them. And if our liberties are not worth the difference between a homespun & a broadcloth Coat, — between a worsted & a silk stocking — in the estimation of the people, on what are we to found our hopes of retrieving our rights? We have demonstrated our slavery & submit to be enslaved for the most contemptible of all human gratifications — that of Vanity. We have riveted our chains so that all Europe, that all Europe might see we have not spirit to shake them off. It is not a doubtful business — a plain usurpation — but an avowed, demonstrated acknowledged tyranny. We are not deluded, but driven

driven into slavery. And this, not by the valour the wiles, or the wisdom of the tyrant; but by our own intolerance of every honorable and virtuous effort to redeem us from bondage. It is not that the non importation agreements have been given up; but that they were faithlessly kept & shamefully abandon'd. A measure, found by experience to be impracticable or inadequate might have been dropp'd, with honor & propriety— but mutual treachery, & bitter recrimination, must render every future operation contemptible & nugatory.

In these circumstances, Sir, even your confidence & opinions can hardly revive my hopes. I am certain too, that even our friends here, were they to come into power to-morrow, would not attempt to redress our grievances. They well know, that against the sense of the Members & Lords of Parliament, against the plan & principles of the ostensible Administration-men, & interior Cabinet, but above all against the wish of the King & his favorite; such an attempt, without a steadfast, determined, alarming opposition on the part of America, must be without success. It is therefore but too sure, that the chains which the late system imposed, are re

There are indeed leading men in this kingdom against the whole system both principle & practice; but their ~~principles~~ opinions are overruled & that without hope of the reverse.

There is however one event to which I yet look forward with some confidence. An event which cannot be at any great distance, that of a war. One noble & united struggle then, would yet redeem us. I therefore take the liberty of proposing to your consideration whether it would not be proper to prepare for that opportunity, especially in point of union. For unanimity among the Colonies is absolutely necessary to success, whatever may be the measure pursued. The Assemblies should harmonize in three things — Refusing supplies without redress of grievances — repeating their resolves of rights — and renewing their Petitions for redress. At that critical & alarming period, when the value of our affection & assistance will appear in its highest lustre, the more symptoms we shew of discontent & alienated affections, the more sure will be the attainment of our end. Therefore the moderation, so commendable at other times, would absurdly injure us then. If you could communicate this scheme modelled & digested by your better judgment, to such leading men in each Colony, as may be trusted, a plan might be deliberately formed, & a measure of so great impor-

ce precipitate emergency of the

n

moment of action.

'Tis proper Sir that I should make some apology for presuming to advise, when there is so much superior wisdom & knowledge. But I am prompted to exceed the limits of Modesty by the warmth of my heart for the liberties of my Country, & encouraged by the candour with which you treat me, to hope that excess will be pardoned.

I am very well satisfyed of the propriety of what you urge against addressing the people at this time; but it is far from seeming probable to me that the Ministry will soon give any further cause of complaint by adding to the oppressions with which we are already loaded, by any general act. Their system is the reverse. They think that to secure the ground they have already gained, is sufficient for the present & will furnish a foundation on which, when opportunity serves, an ample tyranny may be erected. And surely we must want gall to make oppression bitter, if that we now sustain is insufficient. Our principles of liberty must be feeble indeed, if we let the favorable opportunity of a war pass away unembraced & unsuccessful. You very justly observe that to move large Bodies permanently, there must be an appearance of delib[illegible] & moderation. But when opportu

inclination less address is requisite for the purpose.

Our political State here is not very promising. Opposition weak, & what is worse, wicked. Measures not good to the People & therefore not strengthend with their confidence. Administration abandoned, & having no character to lose, lend themselves desperately to the worst measures. There seems to be no hope but in Ld Chatham & Ld Shelburne. Nothing but the emergency of a war will bring them in on their patriotic principles. The Ministry very sensible of this, are warding off a war with their utmost art, but the Politics of Europe seem so much inclined to a rupture, that it appears inevitable. The Duke of Bedford's death will throw the whole power into Carleton-house; but whether they will attempt or be able to sustain it alone is doubtful. At present they seem inclined to recruit by drafts from the opposition, & the dispute will be between the Rockingham & Grenville parties, who are both at St James's market, but differ in their price.

I have the honor to be &c &c

The policy of Administration seemed now, to take the Colonies one at a time, & to begin with Massachusetts, which they considered as the Strong hold of Liberty in America. This mode was suggested by Sir Francis Bernard & Governor Hutchinson, & to them the execution was trusted. Some difficulties were to be smoothed by changing the charter mode of electing Counsellors, & there was no doubt that for this & other purposes the Charter was to be alterd. Knowing this & the consequences of it, I was equally astonished & concerned to find that Dr. F—n had attempted to lull the Province to sleep by assuring them they had nothing to fear on that subject. That he could be deceived as to the designs of Administration I could hardly believe. That he was bribed to betray his trust, I had not suspected. It remained therefore, as the most probable conjecture, that he endeavord to lull his constituents into security, that he

might prevent any commotions which would hazard the lucrative posts he possessed. From whatever motive the deception sprang, the mischief of it was such as rendered a counteraction of it necessary. For that purpose the following letter was written, but it was written in anger, & yet the experience I have had since would justify the worst interpretation of his conduct.

To Samuel Adams Esqr.

Sir/ April 10th 1771.

The Session has now nearly passed away, without one offensive measure to America. We owe this to the difference with Spain, which engaged all the attention of Administration in the first part of the Session, & a quarrel with the City of London, which will employ the remainder. I am very well informed that Lord Hillsborough, aided by the Nettleham Baronet, his most illustrious friend, had planned an act to change the mode of electing your Council

+ Sir Francis Bernard, baronet of Nettleham

which was to have been carried into execution this Session, but was prevented by the contingences I have mentioned. Did any action of their lives warrant a supposition that experience would teach them right wisdom, I should be inclined to believe, that, perceiving how quiet the Colonies are when not irritated, they will desist from agitating anew those waters w[d] have not been easily composed. But I know that neither experience will give them wisdom, nor time assuage their malice. Therefore I think it my duty to inform you of this design, that you may have time before next session, to take such measures as you may think most effectual to defeat it. I am the more suspicious that the measure ~~was~~ suspended only, that I find L[d] Hillsborough takes great pains to assure the Americans, that as long as they continue quiet, nothing will be done to their prejudice. As treachery is his fort, there is most danger when his professions are warmest. He possesses ~~to~~ a perverse spi

of one that thinks he is doing nothing who is not doing mischief.

It would form a very powerful objection to this bill, if America in general took the alarm at it. And certainly innovations abridging liberty, in one Colony, is great cause of apprehension to all. It might therefore be of great use to apprise the leading members of the different Assemblies secretly of the business & engage them, if it should be moved here, to send Petitions against it. I will write to my Brother upon it & to Mr. Dickenson. Should such a bill pass the first Session it is proposed the injustice of deciding on a matter so interesting to the province, without hearing their objections will be flagrant. Should it be ~~defar~~ deferred after it is moved, the rest of the Colonies will have time to join you, in opposing it. And tho' their Councils are generally upon a slavish establishment already, yet this being a mode only of encroaching on the freedom of your Con

stitution

Constitution, they must see that if any part of their Constitutions, be equally obnoxious, because equally free, the same attempt will be made to destroy it. The enmity conceived against the Council arises from its having embarrass'd & oppos'd these ministers in their arbitrary proceedings. Therefore it is in truth an attempt against american liberty. Viewing it in this light, the rest of the Colonies cannot but be impress'd with a sense of the common danger, that attends the establishing a precedent, for altering, by the intervention of the british Legislature whatever opposes the arbitrary measures of Administration in America

Since writing the above, I have read in your papers, an assurance from Dr. Franklin — that all designs against the Charter are laid aside — In this he is not the dupe, but I am so uncharitable as to believe he is the instrument of Lord

Hillsborough's treachery. An enquiry into his Lordship's character must have shewn it to be both here & in Ireland, that of a man totally void of all honor & good faith in politics, & perpetually aiming at imposition. Dr. Franklin has too much sagacity to be deceived in a character much less notorious than that of his Lordship. But the possession of a profitable office at will, an office the more lucrative because Government makes no enquiry into it, which makes the possessor still more dependant, for which he must by all possible means cultivate Administration; are circumstances, which joined with the worldly prudence — extreme love of money — & artful management of his affairs — which are ~~[illegible]~~ eminently remarkable in him, preclude all rational hope, that in an open contest between an oppressive Administration &

(a) It is certain that Dr. Franklin did not appear decided till Administration deprived him from this office.

and a free people, he can be a faithful Advocate for the latter. His letter to the Merchants in Philadelphia advising them to adhere to their non importation agreement, was well timed for the Agency then vacant; but he himself prevented the effect of that agreement, which was to rouse the Merchants & manufacturers of G. Britain to espouse our cause, by dissuading those of London from petitioning for a repeal of the Act. I am confident in asserting that if Dr. Franklin had done his duty here, the Merchants & Manufacturers might have been induced to have presented such petitions to Parliament as would have probably produced a total repeal of the revenue act. Had he acted as he did in the Rockingham Administration which countenanced & encouraged him, his influence is such, that he might have done great service. But it is his game to conform to the temper of the reigning Administration, therefore he open'd but once of that in Ld. Shelburne's Administration, who he knew was favorable to our cause. I feel it not a little disagreeable to speak my sen-

sentiments considering how I am circumstanc[ed]
But I protest to God, I am so far from being influenc[ed]
by any selfish motive, that were the business of
the Colony ten times greater than it is, I would
serve for nothing rather than you & America
in such a time as this, should be betrayd
by a man, who it is hardly in the nature
of things can be faithful to his trust.

Yr. House has done me the honor, unsol-
liciting & personally unknown, to testify
their approbation of the manner in which I
have opposed & exposed the Enemies of Ame-
rica, & their particular foes. Such an appro-
bation is with me the highest incentive
to persevere in an open & spirited ~~represen-~~
~~tation~~ declaration of my sentiments not
only to combat your avowed Enemies, but to
detect your false friends.

I could have wishd, that the
address of your Council, Sir, had been in a dif-
ferent strain from the one which I have read.
The circumstances they mention as inducing
them to applaud his Majesty's appointment, do
in my opinion render the appointment of the person
more objectionable —

My political progress had made me acquainted with many of the Leaders of all parts of the opposition such as Ld. Shelburne, Mr. Beckford, Ld. Temple, & Mr. Dunning, Serjeant Glynn, Col. Barre, Mr. Wilkes the Aldermen Sawbridge, Townsend & Oliver.

It was by constantly comparing the different ideas of these gentlemen with one another & with the plans & proceedings of the Ministers, that I was able to form a pretty accurate judgment both of the real intentions of the latter, & how far America was warranted in relying on the support of the former. These were the two principal objects of my pursuit. The dearest rights & interests of my immediate Country were at hazard. It would not have been wise to have trusted these to the mere issue of political intrigues & party opposition for places & preferment. Some however of the above Leaders appeared to me, hearty in the cause of America as well as of England. Their

advocation of liberty was general. Among these the most illustrious was the Earl of Shelburne. Him I had long known, long studied & found his conduct uniform & un-impeachable. But the private life of this nobleman, was no less the subject of my esteem & admiration. The following letter will bear testimony of my then sentiments regarding him: sentiments which under great & various trials since, I have had no reason to alter.

To Dr. Preistley

Sir/ Octr. 25th. 1772

At the request of our very worthy friend Dr. Percival, I very readily contribute my endeavors towards relieving you from a painful uncertainty respecting Lord Shelburne. The gratitude I, in common with all lovers of Science, owe you, makes this my duty.

A long & intimate acquaintance enables

me to speak with confidence of Ld. Shelburne's real character. With a strong understanding & great desire for the acquisition of useful knowledge, he has a mind turned to the enjoyment of private life, as well as to those high pursuits in the State which become his rank. His aims are noble his means fair & honorable. Nor does he forget or neglect in the pursuits of a Statesman, the duties of domestic life. His Family is regulated with the most perfect order & decorum. His guests are, as at home, nor does any man better know, how to ~~support~~ combine the dignity of the Nobleman with the ease of a Gentleman & the familiarity of a friend. As a father & a husband, no man was ever more zealous tender & attentive. I do assure you, Sir, that I have not an idea of a more perfect state of conjugal happiness than that which subsisted between him & the incomparable Lady(a) who, unhappily, is now no more.

Lord Shelburne has a great deal of good Nature, & his behaviour has always a proper mixture of ease & ~~[illegible]~~ dignity. I do not know one vice to which he is addicted

(a) The daughter of the great Ld. Carteret Earl Granville. This Lady had the sweetest disposition married to the finest j[illegible]ment. Her conduct had always so much true dign[illegible]s & graciousness in it as to render her uni[illegible]miable & respected.

nor one virtue which he wants. In the country what time he has to spare from his domestic concerns, to which he is ever strictly attentive, is employed in reading or directing the improvements of his grounds. In town the duties of a Statesman occupy him chiefly.

Upon the whole, Sir, I may venture to assure you, as far as my judgment can determine, that in Ld Shelburne you will be connected with an amiable & honest man, of a noble nature, & exemplary in all the duties of social life. How far it may be eligible in the terms of it, I cannot presume to judge; but both from my regard for him & for you, I cannot help wishing it may take place. I am &c &c —

The removal of Lord Hillsborough from the Board of trade, & appointment of Ld Dartmouth to be Secretary of State for the American department, had raised the expectations of the friends to America. His character was that of an amiable man, exemplary in his devotions. In fact he was religious over-much & even addicted to Methodism. Such a disposition argued weak ~~infirm~~ mind, or hypocritical heart. The subsequent conduct of this Minister savored of both. Neither his abilities nor his connections (which were by relationship) promised much —

The State of things in 1772 I represented to Mr. Samuel Adams in my letter of Decr. 23.

Dear Sir, I have long waited with anxious expectation for a letter from you. But in vain It is now I think near a twelvemonth since I had the pleasure of hearing from you

It is however some comfort for me to see, that you have not equally neglected the public. It seems to be a favourable moment for exertion. I mean with a view of overthrowing some of those hypocritical [illegible] tors who reign over you. As to any far[illegible] medy or success it is not to be expected Ld. [illegible] mouth is too insignificant a character at le[illegible] do any thing grand or decisive. But con[illegible] as he is, the tenour of his conduct must be [illegible] ble. The E. India business is likely to take [illegible] the whole attention of this Session. It seems probable that Government will assume the jura regalia of that mighty dominion. Its poison is not wanting to infect our Constitution to the very heart. It may be feared however that its riches will accelerate our ruin. Asiatic wealth, has like a mighty tor-

torrent overran every State upon which it has hitherto been turned. But the virtue of this unhappy Country has at once been tarnished with eastern luxury & scotch treachery. Without question it must sink in the Scale.

To one however who adores liberty & the noble virtues of which it is parental, there is some consolation in seeing, while we lament the fall of english glory, the rise of that of America. Yes, my friend, like a young Phenix She will rise full-plumed & glorious from her mothers Ashes. The numbers that are daily emigrating from the ~~[illegible]~~ of G. Britain & Ireland & the multitudes that in any public calamity would resort to us, are probable arguments that must in a little time lay [illegible] permanent foundations of [illegible] wealth & power America will be in her turn the imperial mistress of the world. The late [illegible] has turned upon us the eyes of all Europe, & whenever they want refuge or dare to seek the retreats of freedom, America will be their object.

We are endeavouring to prepare Ld Dartmouth, by representations [?] by giving him a proper idea of Governor H— . Jay. Francis is as assiduous

in supporting him. I cannot but hope that a determined opposition on your part to the dangerous innovation in pensioning the Govr & Judges will defeat it. Being so directly contrary to his Majesty's declaration & so utterly inconsistent with every constitutional idea concerning a free & impartial Administration of Justice, it cannot be maintained but on the ground of arbitrary policy. The removal of Mr Hutchinson would I think be a very great mortification to the hopes of those among you, who are selling their Country for plunder & preferment. I do not despair of this being effected

I have taken care that the generous con[illegible]ct of Mr Otis towards his Assas-sin [illegible] [illegible]ll be held up to the public. I [illegible] that Gentleman is perfectly re-cove[illegible] [illegible]om the consequences of that infa[illegible]ous attempt. — It will give me very great pleasure to hear from you & to know that you are all firm & unanimous in opposition to arbitrary power."

The people of Boston in town meeting assembled, entered into a full

declaration of their rights & grievances, & established a correspondence with the other town-meetings. Of this I received information in the following letter.

Sir) Boston Decr 8. 1772.

In pursuance of a vote of the Inhabitants of the town of Boston, at a legal meeting on the 20th of Novemr last, I have the honor by the direction of their Committee to transmit to you, the votes & proceedings of that day & am with great esteem, Sir, Your most

Arthur Lee Esqr. hum. be Servt.

Signd. Willm Cooper Town Clerk.

x To a wise Administration [illegible] measures would have appeard to be th[e] [illegible] foundation, of serious resistance to [illegible] necessary: They would therefore have determined to remove the causes of discontent or to take effectual measures for carrying their plan into execution. They do not appear to have done either. Sir Francis Bernard, Governor Hutchinson & their adherents

adherents were in force to continue in irritating the people & the troops stationed at Castle William gave an appearance of supporting these obnoxious measures with military force. These things had the effect which might have been expected, effects which were fully & particularly pointed out to the Ministers long before they [illegible] happened.

The [illegible] India Company being the object [illegible] animadversion; I determined to join [illegible] opposition in that [illegible] not only from a conviction of its being right, but with the hope of embarrassing their measures against America. A friend of mine qualified me as a proprietor. I soon got into a private Committee of Proprietors who met to consult upon the measures they should take. The Duke of Richmond & Lord Pigot, who was afterwards wickedly deprived of his go-

+ government & murdered by some of the Compa-
ny's servants in the E. Indies, were of this Comm.ttee
His Grace seem'd to be in opposition more
from having little else to do, than from clearly
comprehending the object & grounds of his
opposition. Ld. Pigot appeard to be a sen-
sible, candid & upright gentleman. In this
Committee the system of oppo[illegible] on [illegible]
Court of Proprietors [illegible] generally plan[illegible]
The Bills brou[illegible] [illegible] Parliament by
Ld. North for ra[illegible] [illegible] qualification
of a Voter in the C[illegible] from £500 [illegible]
stock, & for estpe[illegible] [illegible] persons [illegible]
Parliament in on[illegible], with supreme
powers independent of the Company; were
measures of serious alarm not only to the
Proprietors, but to every one who considerd
the ~~inft~~ extention of the influence of the Crown
from an increase of patronage, already too
great, as dangerous to the liberties of the
People. The Proprietary opposed in every
step. They chose a special Committee

to watch over the measures of the Minister & maintain their rights. I was elected into this Committee. For some time we pursued the purpose of our appointmt. with ardour & apparent honesty. It was determined that two of the Committee should speak at the bar of the House of Commons against the bill for altering the quit [illegible] It was proposed to me to be one. My courage I confess faild me. I doubted whether [illegible] ing not yet much [illegible] ment [illegible] e Speaking, I should [illegible] in any manner [illegible] t subject or honor to my self. Doubting I declined. In this Committee a circumstance happened of some singularity & which served to shew me of what stuff the majority of those composing it were made. Mr. Dempster a member of the Committee & of Parliament, requested the advice & opinion of the Committee relative to the answer

he ought to give to Ld North who had proposed to him an appointment as one of the Supervisors in India, to be made by one of the Bills we were entrusted to oppose. He stated his own Doubts whether he could with honor accept the Ministers offer, & therefore he had de[illegible]d giving him an answer, till [illegible] had consulted this Committee. [illegible] the rest of the Members, two only [illegible], gave their opinion for the [illegible]ptance. [illegible] Johnstone & Dr. Kenns [illegible] speeches were urging him to the measure, with warm & plausible speeches. The Governor observed with much sagacity—that we had now brought the opposition to the very point we should wish—that in not embracing the opportunity of getting one of our friends into

w

into so valuable & important a place would be very much wanting to our selves — that such was the charac- ter of the honorable Gentleman, that since the confidence we propose, no appointment would give more pleasure to our Constituents & to the Nation at large. I was of the contrary opinion supported by one Member only a Mr Chreston who was afterwards chosen an Alderman of London. I requested the gentleman to consider, in deciding on the conduct proper for him to pursue, in what situation he stood. That he was there in trepple trust — as a Trustee of the people in Parliament — as a Proprietor — & as a member of a Committee to whom

the sacred rights of the Company violated by this
very Minister were specially ~~committed~~ confided.
That the acceptance of a place under a Bill
which he opposed & reprobated as a Member of
Parliament, as a Proprietor, & as one of
their select Committee was manifestly
incompatible with every claim to inte-
grity & honor. That the true point of oppo-
sition was to defeat a Bill calculated to
wrest from the Company their rights & vest
them in the ~~company~~ crown, already too power
ful in patronage & influence. That the obvious
view of the Minister who made this offer was to
disunite & disgrace the opposition. It was true
the honorable Gentleman enjoy'd the highest con-
fidence of the Company — And so much more
did it behoove him not to wound that confi
dence — So much the more reproachful would
it be to countenance such a bill & such a Mi
nister, to betray a confidence so sacred — to
take from the People all hope of integrity in
those they trusted & verify the profligate de
claration of a profligate Minister — that every
man had his price. That much as he wish'd
to see the honorable gentleman in high trust he
desired not wish him to sacrifice for it his fair

and honor. And tho' the Gentleman was the best gaurdian of his own honor, yet Ld could not help giving my opinion that accepting the offer in question circumstanced as he was, would fix upon his character indelible disgrace.

Mr Dempster thanked the Members for the candour with which they had given their opinions — he said the sentiments of those who dissuaded his acceptance were so congenial with those of his own mind, that he should without delay inform Ld North that he could not accept his offer. The Bills however passed in spight of us, the influence of the crown bearing down all opposition.

On these proceedings of Parliament I gave my sentiments to Mr Samuel Adams at Boston, in the following letter.

Sir, Decr 3d 1773

You ask me what political News What can I say, but that we are undone? We are in the dead calm of corruption, which, with more than circean charm, fascinates every feeling of public virtue. If any thing can fix the enchantment beyond a possibility of dissolution — it is eastern wealth & eastern manners. Unhappy East what a fate is thine? Doomd to be forever plunderd by the west, with only the melancholy consideration of eventually undoing your plunderers. You minister poison in a cup of gold. Your fruit like the apple of temptation is pleasing to the sight but poisonous in the taste — fair but fatal! The East India regulating bill has diverted the wealth of India into the direct channel for our destruction. For the future the story of Lord Clive will be that of every military plunderer in the East; that of Sykes, of every civil extortioner. It begins in blood & plunder — it ends in servility & dependence. The wealth would be insecure under the

crimes

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crimes by which it was acquired, without ministerial influence & protection to cover them from enquiry, or screen them from punishment. In a few years the two Houses of Parliament will be filled wth. Omrahs & Subbedars, nurtured in the corruption & despotism of the East. What will be the consequence? We must fall as Greece & Rome have fallen, in the same manner & by the same means.

In this prospect, there is but one consolation. That Liberty, when She abandons this Country, will not like Astræa, relinquish us forever; but will fix her favorite seat in the rising regions of America. There may She rest & spread her happy influence till time shall be no more. But if we too must lose her when She ascends the Skies, we shall at least have the prerogative of viewing her last — her parting steps.

Adieu —

(Here should follow his acc[t] of his trip to Rome.)

(4)

The year 1774, was an eventful year and
brought the american question to a crisis
in its commencement of it, the ministry ap
peared determined upon measures of the most
decided irritation & even hostility. This
I intimated in a letter to the ever to be la
mented Dr. Warren who was immor-
talized by his conduct & death at the
action of Bunkers-hill. My letter
was as follows — Feby. 20. 1774

Sir/ I am obliged to you for giving
me an opportunity of thanking you for the
efforts you have made in vindication of the
just rights of America. Unless you substitute
the intention for the Act, you far overrate
the merit of my services. The rights of my
Country, are, with me, sacred. It is my first
duty to maintain them. The cause of Liberty
is the cause of virtue. I own the glorious sub-
ject fires my breast, And my Soul's darling passion
stands confest. — I not only lament the
attempts which have been made & are ma-

making to enslave us, as productive of great misery to America but as fraught with danger to this Country. Revering as I do the very name of England & loving most sincerely the people, it adds infinitely to the affliction of these proceedings, that they must eventually operate the ruin of this Country.* Whatever alienates the affections of the Colonies must impair, if not destroy that Commerce which is the great source of the riches, the strength, the glory of Great Britain. There is at present a total stagnation of all public opposition here. Administration is therefore left at liberty to bend all their force against us. They seem eager to embrace the opportunity. The treatment of your petition of Dr. Franklin & of Mr. Temple savor of

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* In ~~[illegible]~~ the conjectures I made of the consequences that would follow measures I was deceived or rather mistaken. From this I must except — the impracticability of reducing America — the resistance that would infallibly follow attempting it by force — the immense loss of men & expence that would attend it & the Independence of America. In these I was not mistaken — but in the effect which the non-importation would produce — the ruin to the Credit & Commerce of G. B. — the diminution of her power & the downfall of her Empire I was mistaken. A. L.

the most malignant & persecuting disposition. In my opinion, the active Americans here stand in daily peril of their lives. It will not indeed be an easy matter to destroy us by an english Jury. But Parliament is equal to any thing & Parliament is entirely under the direction of this, as you justly stile it, all-powerful Administration. Either I am deceivd or times of great calamity & oppression are near. How they will end, he only knows in whose hands are all the corners of the Earth. In the mean time, we have only to remember that — at every hazard, we must be free.

A. Lee

I shall give a Summary of the proceedings on the Petition mentiond in the above letter; which occasiond a Duel & a very celebrated Speech from Mr. Wedderburne now Lord Loughborough.

Some letters written to a Mr. Whateley by Governor Hutchinson & ~~Lt. Gov~~ Lieutenant governor Oliver were laid before the assembly of Massachusetts. In these letters the writers of them had calumniated the People — endeavord to inflame those who should read them against the province; & suggested measures calculated to prevent all popular opposition to ministerial measures.

Upon

upon these Letters, which were original & therefore could not be denied the House of Representatives voted a petition to the King for the removal of the Governor & ~~Chief Justice~~ Lieutenant Govr. This Petition they transmitted ~~[illegible]~~ to their Agent Dr Franklin to be presented to the Throne. I received also the following letter from their Speaker.

Sir Province Massachusetts Bay June 25th 1773

I have received the commands of the House of Representatives of this province, to inform you that they have lately had divers letters signed Tho. Hutchinson, And: Oliver &c laid before them & that they have voted, as their sense, that the tendency & design of said letters appear to have been to overthrow the constitution of this government & to introduce arbitrary power into this Province. They have also agreed upon & passed an address to his Majesty praying that his Excellency Tho. Hutchinson governor & the Honble Andrew Oliver, lieutenant governor of this province may be removed from the posts they hold within this province, which they have directed Dr Franklin to lay before his Majesty, & have also directed him to employ you as Council upon this occasion, & as the

sions aforementioned have by this their conduct rendered themselves very obnoxious, the people here, & have entirely lost their confidence, they doubt not you will employ your interest & influence to support the petition above mentioned & do all in your power that it may have its desired effect.

Arthur Lee Esqr

I am, with great respect,
your humble Servt
Thomas Cushing Speaker

As I was at that time only a Student of Law, I could not appear as Counsel in support of the Petition. But I addressed the following observations to Ld Dartmouth under the signature of Raleigh.

My Lord — The report to be made upon the Petition from the house of Representatives of Massachusetts Bay, against their Governors, will have so decisive an influence on the people of that Province, that I feel myself compelled to address your Lordship on the subject.

A discovery is made, by letters under their own hands, that the governor & lieutenant governor, had been secretly labouring to subvert the charter rights of the Colony — to subject the People to arbitrary government — & to subdue them by military force. It appeard, that to accomplish these ends they had painted the proceedings of the people in the most false & odious colours, forging falshoods where misrepresentation would not suffice — All this was done under the cloak of secret & confidential correspondence that the mischeif might come upon the people unforseen, the cause unknown & the authors undiscoverd. The People were to be the victims of a secret information — they were to be condemnd without being heard — & punished with the

heaviest of all calamities, the loss of their rights & lives without being apprised of the accusation or a possible defence. The persons who contrived this atrocious, & upon principle it cannot be deemed less — this treasonable conspiracy against the Constitution, stipulated their expected reward.

It was natural that this discovery should exasperate the people to an extreme. They saw in the persons of those who were planning their destruction, men bound to them by all the ties of fellow citizens, & the obligations of gratitude — men who had been long cherished & trusted among them — & who had always professed the most zealous attachment, which [illegible] & gratitude could inspire, to their rights & liberties. This was more especially the case of their chief Governor, who was at that very time practising every art to fix in the minds of the people an exalted opinion of his warmest affection for them, & of his unremitting endeavours to promote their best interests a[illegible] Britain.

They saw, besides, in the mode of this attempt against them, something peculiarly malignant. The Ministry were sufficiently disposed to adopt every severity agst them. Governor Bernard & the Commissioners were sufficient to keep up their prejudices & passions. To poison the minds of those in opposition, & by that means to deprive the people of every benefit either from the efforts of that opposition, or from a change of Administration — This, my Lord, was the diabolical plan of Mr. Hutchinson & Mr. Oliver.

Had the popular indignation been followed by the most immediate & tragical consequences, no one could have been surprised. Happily however, the very men whom these Governors had aspersed as the sowers of sedition & promoters of outrage prevailed upon them to trust to his Majesty's justice for redress.

ve purpose the House of Representatives have in an humble petition [illegible] his Majesty's intervention to remove these men, because they have lost all trust & confidence with the People. It is to this prayer to which we are now to advise an answer.

It is well worth considering my Lord what will be the consequence of an [illegible] answer. For some years past the People of America & those of Boston in particular, have been abused, misrepresented & oppressed beyond the example of the worst of times. They have seen [illegible] every representation against them received, every application [illegible] them rejected. When the authors of the secret [illegible] which tended to bring upon them the displeasure of their Sovereign, the resentment of Parliament, & loss of their liberties, were providentially discovered & their representations proved false & wicked the consequence has invariably been the encouragement & reward of those so detected. The discovery of Governor Bernard's false & malevolent letters [illegible] he continued in office. [illegible] made him a Baronet with what is equivalent to [illegible] pension. Mr. Oliver was charged upon the oaths of several of his Majesty's Council & by their unanimous resolution, with most dangerous breach of trust, in having forged minutes of their board & authenticated them on oath, for the purpose of justifying a [illegible] committed by [illegible] & to throw the blame of it on the people. What, my Lord was the consequence? Not punishment, but promotion. The People saw with astonishment & horror, this very man, this stigmatized, immediately promoted to be their Lieutenant Governor. These are facts my Lord of public notoriety; facts which [illegible] make them capable. Rewards have followed crimes as constantly as light the Sun. Emolument & emoluments in America, have been exactly proportioned to men's perfidy to the People & their avowed enmity to their immediate country. No people can be so dull as not to see these injuries — no people can [illegible] as not to resent them. Reiterated oppressions, detections complaints & disappointments have [illegible]

7 ~~[illegible] upon that letter which [illegible] [illegible] not therefore be [illegible] of the [illegible]~~ a petition to the King for ~~the removal of the Governor & Lieut. Governor. That letter they [illegible] [illegible]~~, Dr. Franklin, gave the Earl of Dartmouth information of it in a letter dated Aug.t 21. 1773 — in which the Dr. used this extraordinary expression — "And it is said, that having lately discovered, as they think, the authors of their grievances to be some of their own people, <u>their resentment against G. Britain, is thence much abated</u>"

The resentment of a Province, against G. Britain, was a tone somewhat higher than is commonly assumed by even the mightiest monarch to the smallest State. There is not an instance I believe of the Crown ~~using~~ such language to ~~[illegible]~~ the most insignificant provincial Assembly. The expression were at least not very guarded. But in fact Dr. Franklin thought the Ministry at his feet. He soon felt his mistake. The petition was heard before the Privy Council on the 29th of Jan.y 1774. In the mean time a

greatest degree of discontent . . . . . .

question arose — how these original letters came into the hands of those who laid them before the house of Representatives. Mr Whately to whom they were written was dead. When they were written he was member of Parliament & very intimate with Mr George Grenville. His brother who had the Papers of the deceased could give no other account of it, but that Mr John Temple had leave from him to examine the letters from his Brothers american correspondents, from which he supposed that Gentleman had taken the letters in question. This he charged him with in the public papers, confessing however that he did not know those identical letters were in the papers he entrusted to Mr Temple's examination. This charge was circulated with the utmost industry & acrimony by Mr Wedderburne & other ministerial agents.

Mr Temple determined to send Mr Whateley a challenge. Mr Izard bore it, & offered to be his second. Mr Whateley accepted the meeting but

expect to have a second 40 [illegible] in the ring at hyde park was the appointment. Mr Izard & myself went to the park in his carriage, to attend the issue. On our way to the ring our attention was drawn to another quarter by the report of pistols. Thither we went & met Mr Whately coming from the field of action, having received a slight wound in the breast & one on the shoulder a little behind. Both with the sword. He made no charge to us of unfair play on the part of his antagonist. Mr Izard offerd his Coach to carry him home, which he accepted & Mr Izard accompanied him. I went in quest of Mr Temple & we walked together to Mr Izard's house. He informed me that some persons being at the ring, Mr Whately & he agreed to go to a different part. Mr Whately had a sword but no pistols. He lent him one of his, they fird without effect, & then appeald to the sword; at which he forced his antagonist so little [illegible] that his life was at his mercy. That he

wounded him slightly in order to make him beg pardon. A whisper however was soon circulated that Mr Temple had ~~[illegible]~~ attempted to stab his opponent when down. To corroborate which a declaration from Mr Whately supported by the Affidavits of an alehouse keeper & some Stable boys were published, affirming that when Mr Whately fell on his face, the other stabbed him behind. As this business was in fact political & concerned America I wrote a justification of Mr Temple in wh I stated that Mr Whately had accused him on mere suspicion — that he refused to have seconds — came without pistols — made no charge against Mr Temple when we met him, warm from the encounter & most likely to have exclaimed against such treatment — neither did those who had parted the combatants & were with him, say a word of it — That the slight wound on the shoulder, wh gave countenance to this malignant charge, might well have happened from Mr Temple being in the act of lunging

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when his opponent fell, & by that means in-
tentionally touching him on the shoulder
— That it was an absurdity to suppose, that
when it was acknowledg'd Mr Temple could
from his superior skill, have wounded him
fairly, he would attempt to do it foully—
that the charge came with additional
ill grace, from one who had positively
refused to have seconds, & who coming
to the field without pistols seemed desi-
rous to refer the dispute to the Sword.

I am inclined to think that the public
was satisfyed that this charge with the
contemptible affidavits was fabricated
by Mess.rs Wedderburne & Mauduit & had
no real foundation.

At the close of these proceedings
Dr Franklin came forward with the
following address to the ~~Printer~~ Printer.

S.r Finding that two Gentlemen
have been unfortunately engag'd in
duel, about a transaction & its circum-
stances of which both of them are totally
ignorant & innocent, I think it incumbent
on me to declare (for the prevention of fur-
ther mischief, as far as such a declara-
tion may contribute to prevent it.)

that I alone am the person who obtain'd & transmitted to Boston the letters in question. Mr W. could not communicate them, because they were never in his possession, & for the same reason they could not be taken from him by Mr T. They were not of the nature of private letters between friends. They were written by public Officers to persons in public stations, on public affairs, & intended to procure public measures. They were therefore handed to other public persons who might be influenced by them to produce those measures. Their tendency was to incense the Mother Country against her Colonies, & by the steps they recommended to widen the breach, they ~~[illegible]~~ effected. The chief caution expressed with regard to privacy, was to keep their Contents from the Colony Agents, who the writers apprehended might return them or copies of them to America. That apprehension was it seems well founded, for the first Agent who laid his hands on them, thought it his duty to transmit them to his Constituents."

Craven Street Dec. 25. 1773.

Mr Wedderburne in his Speech before the Council was pointedly severe against this letter — After the mischiefs, said he, of this Concealment had been left for Five months to have their full operation at length comes out a letter, which it is impossible to read without horror, expressive of the coolest & most deliberate malevolence — My Lords, what poetic fiction only had penned, for the breast of a cruel African, Dr Franklin has realized & transcribed from his own. His too is the language of Zanga:

Know then — 'twas I
I forg'd the letter — I ~~plac'd~~ dispos'd the picture
I hated — I despised — & I destroy.

The greater part of this Speech was a violent Philippic against the Dr. He was certainly eloquent & artful. Insomuch that notwithstanding the great decency & decorum that distinguish their Lordships, he made them so far forget themselves & the characters in which they officiated

as to cry out — hear him — hear him.
There were present with the Ld. President
32 Lords amongst whom was the
Archbishop of Canterbury. The deci-
sion was — "That the Petition should be
dismissed as groundless, vexatious, &
scandalous, & calculated only for the
seditious purpose of keeping up a
spirit of clamor & discontent in the
said Province".

Dr. Franklin was dismissed from
his place of post master genl. in America &
a Bill filed against him in Chancery, for
the discovery of the letters which he had
transmitted to America. From this pe-
riod may be dated the Doctors determi-
nation to embark in the American cause
he could expect nothing from the british
Court — his character was touched & he
had reason to fear for his personal safety.
Without these incentives we should have seen
him rest secure, in London, during the contest; which
to the best of my judgement, would have
saved [illegible] twelve mill. of Livres to the U. S. Revenue
had

In the Spring 1774 I set out with Mr
Izard to make the tour of France & Italy.
But previous to my going I drew up
a piece intitled — a true State of the Pro-
ceedings in the Province of Massachusetts
Bay
which has been attributed to Dr Franklin
because it was left with him, as Agent,
to have it printed. The purpose of it was
to remove the the unjust & injurious
impression made by a report of a Com-
mittee of the house of Lords on the same
subject. While at Paris I wrote — the Ap-
peal to the justice & interests of the people
of G. B. which I transmitted to my bro-
ther in London, who had it printed & pub-
lished by Almon. this pamphlet went
thro five Editions. One was printed by
a [illegible] of the town of Newcastle & distri-
buted [illegible] the people — another
edition was also printed & distributed

at the expence of the Merchants in London trading to America.

While we were at Rome we were acquainted with the Earl of Huntington & his Nephew who has since distinguish'd himself in America under the title of Lord Rawdon, & is certainly among the most promising Officers in the british Army. Mr Izard & myself were too Zealous not to encounter the british Peer in defence of our Country. He argued like a Gentleman, but I thought not with much ingenuity. L. Rawdon never disclosed his sentiments.

I observed wherever I went even in Italy that all the papers & monthly productions, contained every thing that was written in America on the subject of our disputes, & that the desire of enquiry into it, pervaded all mankind. The opinion that her cause was just, & the wish that she might succeed seemed almost universal. The

British name was clothed in Europe with terror & admiration. The able manner in which the Americans vindicated their constitutional rights, & the determined tone in which they declared their resolution of resisting G. B. if she persisted, gave Europeans a very exalted idea of their spirit & abilities.

Intelligence from England informed me of a sudden dissolution of Parliament. The meeting of the new one was a crisis in our affairs, from which the anxiety of my mind would not permit me to be absent. I therefore gave up my intention of wintering in Rome & Naples, & in Nov. set out post, alone for London. The weather was most remarkably rigorous, & I travelled from Turin to Paris, & from Paris to London thro ~~[illegible]~~ continued Snow, & Ice —

the new Parliament soon shewed its complexion. Indeed it was not long kept secret, that the dissolution was a ministerial manoeuvre for the purpose of carrying on the war against America. The King's speech on opening the Parliament was in fact a declaration of war. He told them — that a most daring spirit of resistance & disobedience to the Law, still unhappily prevailed in the province of Massachusetts Bay & had, in divers parts of it broke forth in fresh violences of a very criminal nature: That these proceedings had been countenanced & encouraged in other of his Colonies & unwarrantable attempts had been made to obstruct the Commerce of this kingdom, by unlawful combinations — That he had taken ~~[illegible]~~ such measures & given such orders as he judged most proper & effectual for carrying into execution the Laws which were passed in the last session of the late Parliament for the protection & security of the Commerce of ~~my~~ his subjects, & for the restoring & preserving peace, order, & good government in the province of the Massachusetts Bay —

The address of the Commons corre
ced with the spirit of the ~~Duke~~ speec
Lord J. Cavendish moved as an amen
ment — to request that his Majesty
be graciously pleased to communica
the intelligence he had received from
rica, to the House — this was negatived
264 to 73. The whole of the Session was r
with an entire obsequiousness to the
wishes of the Ministers & the & his royal
master ~~[illegible]~~ were in evil hour armed with every power
they desired for reducing America to
unconditional submission.

The reception of the Petitions from
America soon shewd what use the King
his ministers meant to make of their
parliamentary support. A Petition arr
from the Assembly of Delaware. I inf
the Secretary of State of having received
a Petition & my desire to present it
him that it might be delivered to
King. ~~[illegible]~~ He received it from me on
Jan. the 13th & I received from him the follo
~~[illegible]~~

Ld Dartmouth presents his
resp^ts to Mr Lee & desires to see
n on Monday next at 10 O C
th April 1775.

The issue of this confe
nce is contained in the following let
to the Speaker of the Assembly.

Sir Garden Court Middle Temple
April 17th 1775.

Your letter containing the Petition from
the House of Representatives, to the King,
arrived here, after Dr Franklin had sailed
or Philadelphia. The Petition was therefore
put into my hands to deliver to Lord
Dartmouth. I accordingly gave it to
his Lordship informing him of these
circumstances & of the wish of the House
that it might be presented to his Majesty
& his Lordship returned it to me there
, with a declaration, that, as I was
authorised by the House, he, as Se-
cretary of State could not receive it from

me for the purpose I desird.

To deliver it to the King, in the com-
mon way — if I were authorised so to do —
be ineffectual, because there is no certa-
of his reading it, & he never gives an an-
but from the throne, or thro' one of his Se-
cretaries of State. The Petition will the-
remain here to wait the further pleas-
the House.

They who know & lament that
Petitions for redress of Grievances from the
different Assemblies have been repeated-
rejected, cannot but be persuaded tha-
the promise of their being now attend-
to, is only a ministerial manoeuvre
to divide the Colonies & draw off their a-
-ttention to & confidence in that — whic-
is their great shield & defence —
union in general Congress. Your
tition was so framed as to mortify t-
hope. To divide & to destroy, or whe-

ivalent — to fix this merciless
army upon us — is their constant
deavor. But I trust in God, that the
sdom & virtue of our Countrymen
'l continue to render it ineffectual
ive us at length a happy & speedy end of
our troubles by obtaining a full
dress of grievances.

I have the honor of
being &c &c — signed A. Lee

James Kinsey Esqr. New Jersey

In August Mr Richd Penn
rrived with a Petition to the throne
om the general Congress of America
ch that august Body desired might be
presented by him & the agents for
e several Colonies. Mr Bollan
myself were the only agents in town

(C)

Dear Sir,

I commit to your care, for the Phil: So.y, two Ms. of Mr Arthur Lee They are the proceedings before the Criminal Judge, of the Government of Prussia, in relation to the robbery of Dr Lee's official papers, while Minister at that Court in the time of Frederick the Great- He ordered the proceedings.

Be pleased to present them to the So.y with the respects of

Your Obt Svt &c

May 31st 1826.

Richard Henry Lee

Francis W...

25

[illegible]

[illegible] to your care for the
Dept. of State, the [illegible] of Mr. [illegible]
They are the Proceedings before the
Admiral Judge, of the Government
of Bahia, in relation to the
robbery of several papers
Dr. Heade
while [illegible] at that Court
Presid[illegible]
[illegible] of [illegible] the
[illegible] the proceedings
[illegible] to [illegible] them
[illegible] with the respect of
your obt. [illegible]
Richard [illegible]
Nov 31st 1826

Account of the Robbery of the Papers of Lee Am^n Agent at Berlin 26 June 1777

for Contents see page

Presented by Richard Henry Lee to the American Philos. Soc^y

May 1826

The Detailed acc^o. of this Robbery will be found in the Life of Arthur Lee by Richard Henry Lee in 2 Vol 8vo published in Boston 1829

Vol. 1. p. 95 – A Lee complained to the King Frederick on 1 July & rec^d a reply from the King dated 2^d. stating that he had ordered Baron Schulenbourg to confer with him on the subject

In Vol. 2^d page 9 – Is the acc^t. given by Arthur Lee to Franklin & Deane at Paris date 28 June 1777 giving an acc^t. of the Robbery

Extract "Two days ago whilst I was at dinner my Bureau was broken open & some papers "stolen out, which were in my Portefeuille – The English Envoy happened to be in the house where I "lodge when I discovered the Robbery – Upon being informed that I was gone to the gov^n & that the suspicion "fell upon one of his serv^ts, he went away in great confusion & in half an hour the P. F. with all the "papers were laid down at the Door & the person ran off undiscovered. The examinations & there "been taken, charge his servant w^h having repeatedly told ye serv^t. of the Hotel that his master w^d give 200 [illegible] "Ducats for my papers" The whole is before the King

He wrote them ag^n. 6 July "whether they read the papers I cannot ascertain but I think they received "have relieved y^m [illegible] knowing [illegible] contents – my Journal Book was amongst them contained all our transactions "with France & Spain" – a further detail is in A L letter to Congress 29 July – The K. desired GB to recall the Envoy

See p. 10 Vol 2 & p 12

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From Page 1 to Page 19

A. A French translation of the proceedings at Berlin on the Robbery of the Papers of Mr Lee 26 June 1777

B. p. 23. Letter Richd Henry Lee to L Vaughan Augt. 1820 accompanying a MSS in hand writing of Benj Franklin

D p. 26 giving an account of a conversation between Dr F. Agt for Mass. Bay Colony with Ld Hillsborough Sec State for y Colonies Jany 16. 1771

C p. 25 Letter of R H Lee to D Mease May 31. 1826 accompanying two MSS relative to the Robbery of Mr Lees Papers at Berlin

E p 30 { viz A. The French translation of the proceedings from the German & E. The German acct of the proceedings from p. 30 to the End }

a.

Traduction.

Copie vidimée du protocolle de recherches, au sujet du portefeuille appartenant à Mr. de Lee enlevé dans la maison de l'aubergiste Corsica de cette ville, le 26. juin 1777.

Translation

An Authenticated, compared Statement of the researches made relative to the Papers (Porte=feuille) belonging to Mr Lee taken from the House of the Tavern Keeper of the Corsica Hotel in This Town 26 June 1777 Berlin

The list of the Documents will be found in the ~~following~~ preceding Page

Index to the Documents

Inventaire des Actes.

page 3 N.° 1. Protocolle contenant le rapport de Mr. de Lée, au Sujet de son porte feuille enlevé le 26. juin courant de la maison de Corsica, par fracture d'un pupitre et la decouverte du corps du délit. — fol 1.

page 8 N.° 2. Déposition de l'aubergiste Corsica fol. 4. —

page 11 N.° 3. idem de la femme de Corsica fol 5. —

page 12 N.° 4. idem de la Mére de la Corsica Neuve Susmilch née Groschwaldt fol: 6. —

page 13 N.° 5. idem de la Servante de Corsica: Dorothée Marie Marguerite Buschow - - fol: 7. —

page 14 N.° 6. idem du Domestique de Louage Jacques Cronier. fol: 8. —

page 15 N.° 7. idem du Mousquetaire Jean Frederic Margraff du Régiment de S. A. S. Monseigneur le Prince Frederic de Bronsvic, de la Compagnie de Monsieur le Major de Schladen, qui se trouve en Condition ~~come [illegible]~~ au Service de Corsica, come Lafeldmtar

The original German of which this is a translation from Page 3 to page 19 follows at Page 30 & following to the End

Ex officio: N.o 1. –

Copie.

Fait à Berlin le 27. juin 1777. le matin
à une heure trois quarts.

Le conseiller privé de guerre et Président de la ville
M.r Philippi, fit appeller le Soussigné ce matin
à une heure dans sa maison, et lui découvrit le cas
suivant en présence d'un cavalier étranger nommé de
Lée qui ne sait point l'allemand, et de l'aubergiste
Corsica chéz lequel ce cavalier loge.

Que M.r de Lee qui est à Berlin depuis environ 3.
semaines, et loge chéz Corsica, étoit venu chéz lui
depuis environ une heure avec ledit Corsica, et lui
avoit dit, que son porte feuille contenant des lettres
de change et de Credit, et des papiers de la plus
grande importance, lui avoit été volé aujourd'huy
l'après midy, ou le soir, de son pupitre fermé à Clef,
et quil lui importoit très fort d'en faire la recherche,
et de le retrouver. que ledit S.r de Lee auroit dit
audit S.r Président, quil seroit allé hier après
midy vers une heure à Charlottenbourg avec son
ami logeant avec lui nommé Sayer, et son
Domestique de Louage, et que son dit domestique de
louage auroit fermé la porte de la chambre à Clef
à son depart, et auroit donné la Clef à quelqu'un
du logis, mais ne sachant à qui.

Que hier au soir à huit heures et demi ledit S.r de
Lee seroit revenu au logis avec son ami, et le
domestique de louage, seroit entré sur le champ dans
sa chambre, et y seroit resté avec son ami à peine
quelque minuttes; surquoi il étoit allé avec son dit
ami faire la visite au Cavallier anglois lord Rosbourgh
(lequel pendant son sejour à Charlottenbourg, avoit –

délogé de son ancien quartier de chez Naumeister pour venir se loger dans la maison de Corsica (vis à vis de son appartement) et quil auroit trouvé chez ledit Rosbourgh l'Envoyé d'Angletterre de Ellioz, avec son altesse sérénissime le Prince de Cobourg capitaine au Régiment de S. Steinkeller, quil y seroit resté avec son ami jusques vers 10. heures, et quil auroit ensuite soupé dans l'antichambre de leur appartement, et ~~y Lesieur~~ y seroit demeuré ~~et~~ jusques vers onze heures.

Que comme ledit S.r de Lee seroit allé ensuite de ladite antichambre, dans sa chambre joignante, il auroit voulu ouvrir son pupitre, quil auroit remarqué quon avoit forcé la serrure, et que quand il l'avoit eu ouvert, il avoit trouvé que son porte feuille manquoit quil avoit sur le champ apellé Corsica, et quil lui avoit fait découvrir par sa femme, ledit Corsica ne sachant pas le françois., le vol qui lui avoit été fait, et quil avoit exigé dudit Corsica, quil vint avec lui chez son Excellence le lieutenant général, et Gouverneur de Ramin, ce qui avoit été aussy exécuté.

Que son Excellence de Ramin, avoit renvoyé ledit S.r de Lée et Corsica à lui président de Philippi; que ledit S.r de Lée avoit dit à lui Président Philippi, que pendant le tems quil avoit ~~été~~ mis ^à aller^ avec Corsica chez le Gouverneur, Corsica lui auroit donné à connoitre ~~avec~~ ^par^ un françois corrompu, que le domestique de l'envoye d'angletterre, étoit depuis quelques jours entré et sorti de sa maison, et avoit pris occasion de parler dudit S.r de Lée, et qu'aussy ce domestique de l'Envoyé devoit avoir dit avant hier,

quil croyoit que son maître, donneroit

N°. 2.

" 2000. ducats, s'il pouvoit avoir en ses mains les
" papiers du S.r de Lee.

Que de plus Corsica lui avoit dit, que sitot que lui S.r de Lee lui avoit découvert ce vol, il vouloit aller en chemise dans la Chambre du S.r de Rosbourgh, pour lui annoncer ~~le vol~~ l'enlèvement fait, et en parler avec l'envoyé d'angleterre, mais que l'Envoyé d'angleterre avoit été avec ledit de Rosbourgh devant sa porte de la chambre, sur le point de partir, lorsqu'il ~~auquel comme il~~ leur avoit annoncé ce vol; et avoit dit à l'envoyé d'angleterre;

" personne autre que votre Domestique n'a
= volé ce porte feuille.

Que ledit Corsica avoit bien voulu dire, ceque l'envoyé d'angleterre avoit répondu, mais qu'il n'avoit pu le faire clairement, faute de savoir la langue.

Que le Président auroit déclaré de plus au Soussigné qu'après que ledit Corsica seroit ~~se~~ resté environ 1/4. d'heure chéz lui, il lui auroit dit, qu'il trouvoit necessaire d'aller pour un moment à sa maison, parcequ'il lui venoit en idée, que celui qui avoit soin de mettre le couvert chéz lui, nommé Margraff soldat dans le Régiment du Prince Frédéric de Bronswick, pourroit bien être impliqué dans ce vol, et s'absanter, pourquoi il vouloit l'aller chercher, s'il se trouvoit encore au quartier. Qu'après quelques minutes ledit Corsica seroit revenu chéz lui Président et lui auroit dit.

" que pensés vous, le porte feuille est retrouvé,
" ma femme m'a taraconté, que quelqu'un
" dans la rüe la apellée, et la faite sortir
" hors du logis, qu'il lui à montré du doit
" ~~sur l'escalier~~ au bas de l'escalier, en lui disant
" Il y à la quelque chose, donnér le à
" votre anglois.

" Que la dessus ce quelqu'un s'en seroit allé, et que

„ comme elle avoit ~~consideré~~ regardé, elle avoit vû que
„ c'étoit le porte feuille dans lequel la clef se tenoit.

Que sa femme avoit sur le champ envoyé ledit Marquet chés son Excellence de Ramin, pour le lui faire savoir, et à Mr. de Lée.

- Que la dessus le soussigné en compagnie de Mr. le Président Philippi, et de Corsica, et de Mr. de Lée, se seroient transportés à la maison dudit Corsica.

- Que Mr. le Président Philippi, qui montoit le premier le perron de la Maison, auroit découvert un paquet de papiers environ de 3. doits d'épaisseur, qui etoient liés ensemble avec une ficelle, et se trouvoient tout contre et sur le seuil de la porte de la rüe, que Corsica présent auroit d'abord dit, voyés vous, qu'est cela? — qu'un valet de police nommé Thiergarten qui étoit avec eux, auroit ramassé ce paquet, que Mr. de Lée l'auroit pris, et auroit dit, ce sont de mes papiers; que la porte de la rüe n'étoit point fermée à Clef, mais seulement poussée, et que le soussigné seroit allé ensuite avec Mr. le Président Philippi et ledit Sr. de Lée dans la Maison.

Que ledit Sr. de Lée logeoit en bas en entrant dans la maison à main droite, qu'il auroit conduit Mr. le président Philippi et le soussigné dans sa chambre, et que nous serions entrés premierement dans l'antichambre où le Sr. de Lée et ses amis avoient soupé; que joignant ladite ~~cal~~ antichambre se trouvoit la chambre dudit Sr. Lée, et attenant celle-cy la chambre de son ami le Sr. de Sayer. Nous examinames en premier lieu le pupitre qui se trouve dans la chambre dudit Sr. de Lée, qui consistoit en une commode de bois de noyer, avec un pupitre dessus, on pouvoit appercevoir clairement par le bois coupé que la serrure de ce pupitre qui peut etre fermé à Clef au haut, avoit été forcée par un instrument aigu, et ce pupitre étoit celui dans lequel le porte feuille

enlevé avoit été; Nous trouvaimes dans ce dit papitre quelques petites piéces d'argenterie, et Mr. de Lée assura quil ne lui avoit été volé rien autre chose que le portefeuille.

à trois pas de ce papitre étoit la cassette dudit S.r de Lée, sur une petite table, d'une ampane de haut, et demy de long, laquelle étoit fortement garnie de bandes de fer, et Mr. de Lée assura que son argenterie, et son argent monnoyé étoient dans cette cassette.

On examina ensuite les fenêtres qui donnent sur la rue, on ne trouva point quelles ayent été forcées; nous examinames cependant que les fenêtres à coulisse de la chambre de Mr. de Lée, et de celle de son ami M. de Sayer, nétoient point arretées de facon que lon à pû commodément lever de la rüe une de ces fenêtres, et entrer par la dans la chambre; Nous trouvames pardevant ces fenêtres des ~~conts~~ volets fermés à crochets, mais les barres de bois qui les assurent navoient pas été mises; et Mr. de Lée dit sur la demande de Mr. le Président Philippi;

" que quand il étoit allé avec son ami chéz
" le S.r de Rosbourgh, les volets navoient pas
" été ainsy fermés, ny crochetés, et que cela
" avoit dû être fait dans le temps quil étoit
" avec son ami chéz led. S.r Rosbourgh.

On ne remarqua pas dailleurs quil aye été fait aucune violence aux serrures des chambres.

Que Mr. le président Philippi auroit ensuite requis ledit S.r de Lee; dexaminer attentivement son portefeuille que la femme de Corsica avoit en main, ainsy que le paquet de papiers qui avoit été devant la porte du logis, pour voir s'il ne manquoit rien dans ledit portefeuille. Surquoi Mr. de Lée auroit examiné avec la plus grande attention ~~à deux reprises~~ le portefeuille, et le paquet de papiers, trouvés devant la porte de la maison, et auroit assuré, quil ne manquoit rien à ses papiers, quils étoient entierement tous réunis; quil

auroit de plus assuré, qu'il bourgeoisie que le portefeuille avoit été fermé à Clef dans le pupitre, et que la clef avoit reposé dans le tiroir ouvert qui se trouve au dessous du rayon où le portefeuille avoit été. Que cependant il ne pouvoit assurer avec certitude, cette ~~particularité~~ circonstance si le portefeuille avoit été fermé ou non, ~~quoique~~ que les autres fois il auroit toujours porté la clef du portefeuille sur lui, & que seulement cette fois ci, il l'avoit oublié : Que cependant il sçavoit très certainement, que quand même le portefeuille n'auroit pas été fermé à clef, du moins le pupitre l'avoit été à coup sur, dont il avoit eu la Clef sur lui. Deplus Mr. de Lée ajoute, qu'en revenant de Charlottetourg avec Mr. de Sayer, la porte de son antichambre s'est trouvé fermée à clef, de manière que son domestique a été obligé de l'ouvrir. —

Au reste le Protocolle ci ~~avant~~ dessus a été lu mot pour mot en langue françoise par Mr. le President Philippi à Mr. de Lée, qui l'a approuvé en tout (point) parfaitement. — a. ú. s.

Signés Philippi. Gerresheim.

N: 2. Eodem.

Ensuite le Soussigné procéda à poursuivre l'examen de ce vol, & pour cet effet fit comparoitre l'aubergiste Corsi~~que~~ca, qui deposa: qu'il se nommoit:

„ Jean Frederic Corsica, agé de 39 ans, „ de la Religion Luthérienne, & qu'il étoit „ un bourgeois & aubergiste consideré de cette „ Ville,

Quoad causam, que Monsieur de Lée, qui avec Mr. Sayer, logeoit depuis 3 Semaines chez lui, Comparant ~~roissant~~, etoit venu à sa chambre hier au soir environ sur les 11 heures, & avoit découvert à sa femme, que son portefeuille lui avoit été volé. Que lui Comparant ~~ssant~~, ayant apris cela de sa femme, s'étoit levé du lit, ou il se trouvoit deja, & avoit voulu aller sur le champ dans la chambre, ou logeoit Lord Rosbourgh pour l'instruire de ce vol, mais, qu'il avoit rencontré

l'envoyé d'angleterre devant la porte de la chambre de Mr. de Rosbourgh auquel il avoit été faire visite, prêt à s'en aller; que lui comparant avoit eû sur le champ un soubçon sur le domestique de l'envoyé d'angleterre, — au sujet de l'enlevement du porte feuille, et que comme il avoit rencontré l'envoyé d'angleterre, il lui avoit dit en face,

" le porte feuille de Mr. de Lee a été volé, et
" il n'y a que le domestique de votre Excellence
" qui la fait.

a quoi l'Envoyé n'avoit repondû à lui comparant autre chose sinon qu'il vouloit envoyer son domestique, qu'il étoit la dessus parti, mais qu'il n'avoit point envoyé ledit domestique; — que le comparant s'étoit la dessus d'abord habillé, et avoit été avec Mr. de Lée chez S. Exc. le Gouverneur le Lieutenant Général de Rainin, pour faire raport de l'Enlevement du porte feuille. qu'en chemin lui comparant avoit raporté à Mr. de Lée sa rencontre avec l'Envoyé d'angleterre, et lui avoit aussy donné la raison suivante du soubçon qu'il avoit sur un — domestique de l'Envoyé d'angleterre.

1° que cet homme s'étoit trouvé souvent sous divers — prétextes dans la maison de lui comparant, depuis que les Srs. de Lée et de Sayer y logent.

2° que ce domestique, si lui comparant ne se trompe, — étoit venû lundy dernier dans sa maison, et s'étoit informé chez lui comparant du valet de chambre dudit Sieur de Lée, qui avoit été renvoyé dans ce même tems par son maitre

Que lui comparant avoit repondû au domestique, que le valet de chambre avoit été démis, et qu'il ne savoit autre chose sinon qu'il étoit déja parti d'icy avec la poste de Warsovie.

a quoi le domestique avoit répondû,
" que cela étoit domage, et qu'il croyoit que son maitre —
" l'envoyé donneroit 2000 ducats pour avoir en ses
" mains les papiers dudit Sr. Lée.

a quoi le comparant auroit ~~repondû~~ répliqué,
" que ce n'étoit point une action d'un honnête homme,

Sur quoi le domestique sans entrer en plus longs discours avec le comparant, s'en étoit allé.

Que lui comparant ~~de rapport~~ avoit fait difficulté de rapporter cela aux S.rs de Lée et de Sayer, dans la crainte que si l'Envoyé d'angleterre venoit à l'apprendre, il pourroit supporter lui comparant un grand domage dans son revenu, parcequ'il y avoit continuellement beaucoup d'anglois logés chés lui; que cependant il avoit expressement ~~defendu~~ ordonné à son ami, y dit convreur de table, Lorfel Dutter, le monsquetaire Margraff, de prêter grande attention sur les chambres de Mr. de Lée et de garder soigneusement son passepartout. Que comme le comparant, ainsi qu'il a été dit cy-dessus, étoit allé avec ledit S.r de Lée chez S. Ex: le Gouverneur lieutenant général de Ramin, pour lui faire rapport de l'enlevement du porte feuille, Son Excellence les avoit renvoyés chés Mr. le conseiller privé, et Président de la ville Philippi; qu'ils y avoient été tous les deux, et que comme lui comparant avoit voulu aller pour un moment au logis, pour éviter que le susdit monsquetaire Margraff ne s'évadât dans le cas où il sauroit quelque-chose de cette avanture, la femme de lui comparant lui auroit raconté, que quelqu'un avoit sonné au logis, et que comme elle avoit ouvert la porte, ~~il~~ ce quelqu'un lui avoit dit, en se tenant sur le perron, et lui montrant en bas,

" voila le porte feuille, donnés le à votre anglois.

Que la femme du comparant n'avoit pas connu la personne qui lui avoit dit cela, mais avoit seulement ~~apprise~~ remarqué que c'étoit un homme d'une ~~ass~~ haute stature, en surtout blanc. Que lui comparant avoit fait rapport au Président Philippi de cette avanture, et que sa femme avoit pris le porte feuille.

Qu'il étoit déja connu au soussigné, que l'on avoit trouvé devant la porte de la rüe un paquet de papiers, qu'il ne savoit pas de plus particulières circonstances qui pussent servir à la découverte de celui qui avoit volé le porte feuille.

Et qu'il devoit cependant encore rapporter que ledit monsquetaire Margraff, avoit, comme il l'avoit déja dit, une clef de la chambre dudit S.r de Lée, et qu'hier au soir il avoit mis le —

couverte pour les dits Sieurs de Lée et de Sayer, et avoit aussy fermé les volets de la même chambre, et que ce Margraff et la Servante de lui comparant, étoient les seuls de ses gens qui ~~entroient~~ eussent pu entrer dans ~~cette~~ les chambres.

Prael. inhaesit dimissus.

N:o 3. Ensuite de cela, ~~on donna audiance à~~ Comparut la femme de Corsica:

Marie Elisabeth née Süssmilch, agée de 34 ans de la Réligion Luthérienne.

quoad causam La quelle déposa:

Qu'elle comparante, n'e pouvoit rien ajouter à la deposition de son mari, concernant l'enlevement du Portefeuille de M.r de Lée. Que le dit M.r de Lée etoit venu hier au soir à 11 heures chez elle, Comparante, & lui avoit découvert, que son portefeuille lui avoit été volé; ce qu'elle avoit communiqué à son mari, qui sur cela s'étoit levé du lit, s'étoit habillé, & etoit allé avec M.r de Lée chez Son Ex.ce M.r le Lieutenant General & Gouverneur de Ramin. Que comme il y avoit environ une heure, que M.r de Lée & son Mari etoient partis, on avoit sonné à la porte de la maison, sur quoi elle étoit sortie, pour voir qui y étoit, que comme pour cet effet elle avoit ouvert la porte, il s'étoit trouvé un homme à elle inconnu sur la plus haute marche du perron, qui etoit de Stature moyenne, portant un surtout blanc, qui lui avoit montré, à elle Comparante, le portefeuille, qui etoit posé dans une fausse fenêtre, qui se trouve joignant le Perron, ~~& qui lui~~ en lui disant:

„Voila le Portefeuille, donnés le à vôtre ami. Sur quoi cet homme s'en etoit allé fort vite mais sans, qu'elle Comparante, pusse dire où. Qu'elle Comparante avoit pris ce portefeuille, étant fort étonnée de cette avanture, & qu'elle l'avoit pris avec elle dans sa chambre, mais qu'elle avoit envoyé tout de suite le dit Tafel Decker Margraff pour aller trouver M.r de Lée & son mari, & pour les avertir, qu'on avoit rapporté le portefeuille, mais, que le dit Margraff étoit revenu, & lui avoit dit, qu'il n'avoit pas trouvé M.r de Lée & son mari

ni chez son Exc. Mr. de Hamen, ni chez l'envoyé d'Angleterre, qui etoient les deux endroits, où elle l'avoit envoyé. Qu'elle Comparante ne pouvoit avoir aucun Soubçon fondé sur personne, par rapport à ce porte feuille, mais qu'il falloit, qu'elle dise, que son mari lui ayant raconté, comme quoi le domestique de l'envoyé d'Angleterre lui avoit dit:

= Qu'il croyoit, que son maitre donneroit
= avec plaisir 2000 Ducats, s'il pouvoit
= réussir à avoir en ses mains les papiers
= de Mr. de Lée, =

Que cette circonstance lui avoit fait naitre diverses pensées sur le Compte de ce domestique qu'au reste le Tafel-decker Margraff, & la Servante Buchow avoient été les seuls, qui eussent pu entrer dans les chambres de Mr. de Lée.

Praelectis inhaesit dimissa.

No. 4. Eodem.

Aprés cela comparut la Femme, mère de la de Corsica qui déposa comme suit:

= qu'elle se nommoit Marie Charlotte
= née Groschwaldt, veuve Süssmilch, agée
= de 51 ans, de la Religion luthérienne.

Qu'elle comparante ne pouvoit produire des circonstances plus particulières, qui puissent servir à faire voir de quelle manière on avoit volé hier le Portefeuille de Mr. de Lée & qui étoit celui, qui l'avoit volé. Qu'elle Comparante n'avoit appris cette avanture, que par le bruit qu'elle avoit occasionné dans la maison pendant la nuit. Mais qu'elle se croyoit obligée de rapporter, qu'il y avoit quelques jours, que le Tafel-decker Margraff avoit raconté généralement dans la cuisine, que le Domestique de l'envoyé d'Angleterre lui avoit dit:

= que son maitre, l'envoyé, employeroit volon-
= tiers, même jusqu'à 1000 Rixdales, pour être
= instruit seulement, quelles sortes de Gens etoient
= ceux, qui logeoient là, sous quoi il entendoit les
= Mrs. de Lée & de Sayer. =

Mais, qu'elle Comparante, n'avoit rien entendu de ce que le dit Margraff devoit avoir raconté, que le domestique de l'envoyé d'Angleterre lui avoit dit:

= que son maitre promettoit une forte récom-
= pense, pour avoir les papiers de Mr. de Leé.

& que tout aussi peu elle pouvoit dire, qui avoit été encore dans la cuisine, lorsque le dit Margraff avoit parlé, ~~comme~~ de cette maniére. –

N:o 5. Praevia Praec: & rat: dimissa.

Eodem.

Ensuite comparut la Servante de l'auberge Corsica, nomée:

Dorothée Marie Marguerite née Buschow, agée de 15 ans, de la Religion reformée, née à Berlin, dont le pére est fabriquant d'étoffes & demeure dans la Rosstraße dans la Maison de Kupffer

La quelle deposa quoad causam bene admonitae, ce qui suit: Qu'elle comparante ne pouvoit produire aucunes circonstances, qui pussent servir à découvrir, celui, qui avoit volé le portefeuille de Mr. de Leé, & qu'elle venoit seulement d'apprendre cet accident, de la bouche de sa maitresse, la femme de Corsica. Qu'elle, Comparante avoit nétoyé hier aprés dinée à deux heures les chambres de Mrs. de Leé & de Sayer, pendant leur absence, pour quel effet elle en avoit cherché la clef de la chambre de ses maitres, ou elle l'avoit trouvée sur la fenêtre. Que vers les 3 heures elle avoit achevé de nétoyer ces chambres, qu'elle avoit alors fermé à clef la porte de l'antichambre & là dessus avoit remis la clef à l'endroit, d'où elle l'avoit prise. –

Qu'elle, Comparante, en nétoyant ces chambres n'avoit pas remarqué la moindre chose suspecte que toutes les fenêtres des Chambres avoient été fermées, à l'exception d'une seule dans l'antichambre, qui etoit la plus proche de la porte qui s'étoit trouvé ouverte, & qu'elle, Comparante avoit laissé comme elle étoit. Qu'à 3 heures ¼

Q

Le Vafeldiener Margraff étoit venu à elle Comparante dans la Cuisine, & lui avoit dit:

– que la Commode dans la Chambre de Mr. de – Lée étoit ouverte; si elle, Comparante, n'avoit – pas remarqué cela en netoyant? =

qu'elle avoit repondu la dessus, qu'en netoyant elle ne s'en étoit pas apperçüe, et qu'au contraire la porte du pupitre avoit été fermée; et que comme ledit Margraff lui avoit dit à elle comparante, que la fenêtre étoit ouverte, et que quelqu'un pouvoit bien être entré par la dans la chambre, elle avoit cherché la Clef de la chambre de son Maitre, pour voir s'il n'avoit été rien pris dans la chambre, des choses qu'il y avoit, et qu'elle avoit mis en ordre, elle les avoit trouvées dans l'état où elle les avoit mises, excepté la porte du pupitre qui avoit été fermée quand elle l'avoit nétoyée, et qui s'étoit trouvée alors entièrement ouverte, la porte étant rabatüe; – qu'elle s'étoit aussy apperçüe, que la où la serrure étoit posée, il y avoit eu un peu de bois de cassé; qu'elle comparante n'avoit vû dans ce pupitre aucun porte-feuille de peau, et qu'elle n'avoit apperçû qu'une lunette d'aproche, et autres misères, qu'elle n'avoit pas davantage considéré, mais qu'elle avoit relevé le plane du pupitre, et qu'elle ne savoit pas s'il avoit été par la fermé à Clef ou non; qu'ensuite elle étoit d'abord sortie de la chambre, ~~et~~ après l'avoir fermée à Clef, et avoit remis ladite Clef dans l'endroit où elle a coutume d'être.

Sur la demande faite à la Comparante, pourquoi elle n'avoit pas annoncé cela à son Maitre, elle avoit dit, qu'elle auroit sans doute dû le faire, mais que cependant n'ayant trouvé rien ~~à dire~~ qui manquat, elle l'avoit crû inutile, ayant outre cela bien immaginé que ledit Margraff, l'auroit bien déja raconté à ses Maitres.

qu'au surplus la comparante n'avoit rien de plus à dire

Surquoi elle a été renvoyée praevia praelect. et Ratif.

Continuation du même jour

No. 6.

Le laquais de louage s'étant présenté a dit qu'il s'apelloit Jacob Cronier agé de 33. ans de la ~~Rel~~ religion Reformée natif de Fridrichsdorff près Francfort sur le Mayn, lequel a déposé, Que lui comparant avoit l'honneur de servir depuis 3. semaines Mr. de Lée et des Sayes, tous que ses Messieurs

étoient à Berlin; que ces deux Messieurs étoient allés hier après midy à Charlottenbourg, et l'avoient pris avec eux; qu'il avoit fermé comme de coutume la porte de l'antichambre, et en avoit donné la Clef à l'hôte; qu'ils étoient revenus à huit heures et demi du Soir de Charlottenbourg, et avoient fait ~~[illegible]~~ là dessus une visite au lord Anglois - Rosbourghs qui logeoit aussy chez Corsica; que lui comparant avoit après cela aidé à mettre le couvert dans la chambre de Messieurs de Lee, et de Sayer, et qu'à cette occasion ledit Margraff lui avoit raconté, que pendant que ces Messieurs étoient sortis, il étoit allé dans la chambre, et avoit trouvé le pupitre ouvert, qu'il s'étoit là dessus épouvanté, l'avoit dit à la Servante, et lui avoit demandé si elle n'avoit pas laissé une fenêtre ouverte, ce qu'elle avoit nié; que lui comparant s'étoit informé auprès dudit Margraff, s'il ne manquoit rien, sur quoi ledit Margraff lui avoit repondu Non; que lui comparant avoit touché la porte, ou pliant du pupitre, et l'avoit trouvé refermé à Clef - et comme Il avoit cru, d'après le rapport de Margraff, - qu'il n'y avoit rien de volé, il n'en avoit point fait rapport à Mr. - de Lee, et de Sayer.

Qu'au surplus le Domestique de l'Envoyé d'Angleterre, étoit venu presque tous les jours dans la maison de Corsica, s'étoit avec un air très soigneux, informé auprès du comparant, et dud. Margraff; qui étoient ces Messieurs, quelles affaires ils avoient qui les connoissoit, et où ils avoient coutume d'aller à Berlin; - que ce domestique avoit donné à entendre, que son maître donneroit volontiers 1000. Louis d'or de récompense à celui qui lui porteroit les papiers de ces Messieurs; que lui comparant et Margraff - avoient répondu là dessus à ce domestique, que celui qui se laisseroit employer à cela seroit une infame Canaille; que cependant lui comparant n'avoit jamais tenu cela pour vray, ayant regardé ce domestique comme un grand Menteur, qu'au surplus lui - comparant s'en étoit allé comme de coutume hier au soir à - dix heures et demie, et n'avoit entendu rien de ce vol que ce matin, et n'avoit rien de plus à dire. -

prael. ratz. dixit —

Signé Gerresheim.

Fait à Berlin ce: 27 Juin 1777.

En présence de Monsieur
Le Lieutenant de Dyherrn

N.o 7. Par ordre de Son Excellence Monsieur Le Lieute

nant General & Gouverneur de Namin, comparut le Mousquetaire Margraff du Régiment de Son Altesse Serénissime Mgr. le Prince Frederic de Bronsvic, de la Compagnie de Monsieur le Major de Schlade, qui, bene admonitus, déposa: qu'il se nommoit:

Jean Frederic Margraff, agé de 24 ans, „ de la Religion Lutherienne, natif du „ baillage de Marienwalde, qu'il etoit en ser„vice depuis 7 ans, au dit Regiment, & se trou„voit depuis cinq ans en condition, comme „ Kafeldner, chez l'aubergiste Corsica_

quoad Causam. Qu'il ne pouvoit dénoncer des circonstances plus particulières, qui pussent faire connoitre, de quelle manière & par qui avoit été commis hier le vol du portefeuille, qui avoit été enlevé du pupitre des deux cavaliers américains, qui logeoient chez Corsica. Que hier au soir entre 11 heures & minuit, il avoit ôté la nape dans la Chambre du Lord Rosbourgh, logeant pareillement chez Corsica, & chez lequel avoient soupé l'envoyé d'angleterre & le Prince de Coburg. Que comme lui Comparant, en sortant de cette chambre, avoit passé le Vestibule, Monsieur de Lée, qui logeoit vis à vis de Lord Rosbourgh, avoit exigé de lui Comparant, qu'il ouvrit la porte de son antichambre, qui, comme de coutume, avoit été deja fermée par le valet de Louage, Conier, ce que le Comparant ayant fait, Mr. de Lée avoit demandé à parler à Corsica, ou à sa feme, que lui Comparant avoit réveillé la femme de Corsica, qui se trouvoit deja au lit, & que s'étant levée, Mr. de Lée lui avoit declaré, qu'on lui avoit volé son portefeuille hors de son pupitre. Que la feme de Corsica, avoit dit cela à son mari, qui là dessus avoit sauté hors du lit, & étoit couru tout droit à la Chambre de Lord Rosbourgh, ou avoient été assemblés, le prince de Coburg, & l'envoyé d'angleterre, mais, qu'étant venu jusqu'à la Porte de la dite chambre, il avoit trouvé l'envoyé d'angleterre, & si lui comparant ne se trompoit, aussi le Prince de Coburg, prêts à s'en aller. Que là dessus

Corsica avoit dit en face à l'envoyé d'Angleterre:
= que personne autre que son domestique allemand,
= n'avoit volé le Portefeuille, & que ce dit domestique
= avoit dit, que Son Excellence vouloit donner
= 2000 Ducats à celui, qui lui procureroit les
= papiers des deux Cavaliers. =
Que l'envoyé avoit repondu à cela:
= Coment, mon domestique auroit dit, que j'ai
= mis une récompense de deux mille ducats à
= ce prix! je l'enverrai tout de suite. =
Que là dessus il s'en étoit allé, mais que le domestique n'étoit pas venu.
Que là dessus Mr. de Lée & Corsica étoient allés chez Son Exc. Monsieur de Kamin, pour lui dénoncer cette avanture, & que lui Comparant étoit allé se coucher: mais qu'à peine auroit il dormi un demi quart d'heure, que la femme de Corsica l'avoit appellé de nouveau, & lui avoit dit, que le portefeuille étoit revenu, & qu'un inconnu l'avoit jetté à ses piés; que lui, comparant devoit aller tout de suite chez son Excellence de Kamin, pour rapporter cela à son mari & à Mons.r de Lée, ~~tout de suite~~, & s'il ne les y trouvoit pas, il devoit aller les chercher chez l'envoyé d'Angleterre. Qu'il étoit allé aux deux endroits nommés, mais n'y avoit trouvé ni Mr. de Lée, ni Corsica, sur quoi il s'en étoit retourné à la maison.
Qu'il étoit vrai, que dès le tems que Mrs. de Lée & de Sayer étoient venus loger chez Corsica, le domestique allemand de l'envoyé d'Angleterre étoit venu presque journellement dans la maison, & s'étoit informé, très particulièrement, quelle étoit la Societé de ces deux cavaliers? ~~ce qu'ils faisoient~~ qui venoit chez eux, & ce qu'ils faisoient proprement ici? que le dit domestique avoit dit aussi, tant à Corsica come à lui Comparant & au domestique de Louage Cronjer:
= Que celui, qui pourroit livrer à son maitre
= les papiers des dits Cavaliers, recevroit ~~auroit~~ une récom-
= pense de 100 Louisdor, ou 100 Ducats. =
Mais que sur cela eux tous l'avoient assuré à diverses reprises, qu'aucun d'eux ne pouvoit ni ne vouloit se charger de cela, vû que ce seroit une très mauvaise action

Que hier après diner d'abord après midi, le susdit domestique de l'envoyé d'angleterre, étoit venu dans la maison, pour inviter le Lord Losbourgh à diner, & qu'à cette occasion, il lui avoit demandé, à lui Comparant; si les deux Américains étoient au logis? surquoi le Comparant lui avoit répondu, qu'ils etoient partis pour Charlottebourg; que là dessus le dit domestique s'en etoit allé sans rien dire d'avantage. Que vers les 4 heures, comme il venoit de porter de l'eau à thé au Lord Losbourgh suivant ses ordres; lui comparant avoit voulu fermer une fenêtre dans l'antichambre des appartemens de Mr. de Lée & de Sayer, La quelle fenêtre étoit la seconde de l'escalier, & avoit été deja ouverte auparavant, & il présumoit que les dits Messrs. l'auroient ouverte eux mêmes; que lui comparant avoit été d'autant plus porté à cela, vu que Corsica lui avoit ordonné expressément de prendre garde à son passepartout, & d'user de précautions pour empécher, qu'on ne dérobat rien à ces étrangers; qu'étant donc entré à ce dessein dans cette chambre, il avoit fermé cette fenêtre, & avoit voulu examiner en même temps, si la servante, en netoyant n'auroit pas laissé peut être des fenêtres ouvertes dans les autres chambres. Qu'étant entré dans la chambre, qu'habitoit proprement Mr. de Lée, lui comparant, avoit trouvé le pupitre ouvert, & l'espèce de porte, qui sert à le fermer, baissée. Que lui Comparant avoit été fort étoné de cela; qu'aussi il n'avoit plus vu dans ce pupitre le portefeuille, qu'il y avoit remarqué autrefois, quand le soir il apportoit des lumières dans la chambre. Que lui Comparant, avoit appellé sur le Champ la Servante, & lui avoit demandé, si elle avoit trouvé le pupitre deja ouvert, lorsqu'elle avoit nétoyé les chambres, à quoi elle avoit repondu, que non; & qu'au reste lui Comparant ne sçavoit pas; si ensuite de cela la Servante avoit referme le pupitre, ou non; que pour lui il ne s'en étoit pas ~~plus~~ embarrassé d'avantage. Que comme lui comparant n'avoit pu se figurer, qu'on eut réelement commis un vol, & qu'il n'avoit pas remarqué, non plus, qu'on eut forcé la serrure, il avoit pensé, que Mr. de Lée

auroit laissé lui même le pupitre ouvert, & auroit ~~conservé~~ serré ailleurs le portefeuille. Que c'étoit aussi là la raison, pourquoi il n'en avoit rien dit à Corsica, ni ~~même~~ aux autres, ni même aux Cavaliers étrangers, excepté, seulement, que le soir il l'avoit raconté à Cronier. Que lui comparant, n'avoit rien de plus à alléguer, hormis que le Domestique de l'envoyé d'angleterre, lui avoit dit hier au soir à 10 heures, :

— que hier après midy à 3 heures, il avoit vu dans la Wilhelms Straße le domestique, auquel les américains avoient donné son congé, deja dimanche ; & qui avoit dit vouloir partir Lundi avec la poste. —

mais qu'il n'avoit pas dit, qu'il eut parlé avec ce dit domestique. —

~~On lut encore une fois au Comparant sa Déposition~~
La déposition du Comparant lui fut lüe encore une fois, & comme il l'approuva en tous points, il fut demis. —

a. v. s.

Lieut: de Dyherrn Gerresheim
du Régiment du Prince Fréderic.

Les Copies, ci devant ont été trouvés, Original Protocollis facta collatione, conformes en tout point, ce que j'atteste conformément à mon devoir Berlin le 5. Juillet 1777.

(L. S.)

signé: Gerresheim
Juge criminel.

Examination
on
my being robbed
at
Berlin

Presented to the
Am. Philosop.
Soc. by

Jany 19. 1827

22

Beglaubte Abschrift
von
dem Untersuchungs Protocollo
wegen
des bey dem hiesigen Gast Wirth Corsica
am 28ten August 1778. entwandten, und dem
Herrn von Lee zugehörigen Portefeuille.

Series Actorum

Num: 1.	Protocoll welches die Anzeige des Herrn von Lee wegen seines ihm aus dem Corsicaschen Hause am 26ten Januar: c. und zwar vermittelst Erbrechung eines Schreib Tisches, entwandten Porte-feuille zugleichen die Ausmittelung des Corporis Delicti betrifft.	fol. 1.
Num: 2.	Deposition des Hoff Wirths Corsica	fol. 4.
Num 3.	— — der Ehefrau des Corsica	fol. 5 v.
Num 4.	— — der Mutter des Corsica Wittwe Küstmilch gebohrne Grotschwalds	fol. 6 v.
Num 5.	— — der Dienstmagd des Corsica Dorothea Maria Margaretha Buschow	fol. 7.
Num: 6.	— — des Küchen bedienten Jacob Cronier.	fol. 8.
Num: 7.	— — des Musquetier Johann Friedrich Margraff von dem hochlöbl. Regiment Sr. Durchl. des Prinzen Friedrich von Braunschweig, des Herrn Majors von Schladen Compagnie, welcher als Tischdiener bey dem Corsica sich in Condition befindet.	fol. 9.

Ex officio No. 1.
Copia.

Actum Berlin den 27ten Junii 1777 Morgens um 3/4 auf 2 Uhr.

Der Königl. geheime Kriegs Rath und Stadt Praesident Herr Philippi ließen Unterschriebenen heute früh um 1 Uhr in dero Logis rufen, und meldeten demselben in Gegenwart eines ausländischen Cavallier Nahmens von Lee, welcher kein Deutsch verstehet, und des Gast Wirth Corsica, bey welchem dieser Cavallier logiret, folgenden Vorfall.

Der Herr von Lee welcher sich etwa 3 Wochen hier in Berlin und zwar bey Corsica aufhalte, sey vor etwa 1 Stunde, mit dem Corsica zu ihm gekommen, und habe ihm gesagt: wie ihm dem von Lee sein Portefeuille worinn Wechsel und Credit Briefe, außerdem aber noch Schriften von der größten Wichtigkeit befindlich, heute Nachmittage oder heute Abend, aus seinem verschlossenen Schreib tische, im Corsicaschen Hause, gestohlen worden, und wäre ihm an der Entdeckung, und Wiedererhaltung desselben höchstens gelegen. Der Herr von Lee habe ihm dem Herrn Praesidenten gesagt, er sey gestern Nachmittag gegen 1 Uhr, mit seinem bey sich habenden, und bey ihm logirenden Freunde, Nahmens Sayer nach Charlottenburg gereiset, auch seinen Lohn Bedienten mit genommen. Und dieser Lohn bedienter habe bey der Abreise sein Zimmer verschlossen, und den Schlüssel, er wisse nicht an wen im Hause abgegeben.

Gestern Abend um halb 9 Uhr sey er der Herr von Lee mit seinem Freunde und Bedienten zu Hause gekommen, er wär gleich in sein Zimmer gegangen, und hätte sich mit seinem

Freunde kaum einige Minuten in denselbigen
aufgehalten. Worauf Er der Englische Ca-
vallier der Lord Roxbourgh welcher vorge-
dachten seinen Freunde solcher während
seiner Abwesenheit in Charlottenburg aus sei-
nes freyen Quartier dem Baumeisterschen Hause
in Gestalt des Corsica, gegen seinem Zimmer
über gezogen) die Visite gemacht, und bey
selbigen die Englischen Gesandten von
Elliot nebst Sr: Durchl: den Prinzen von Co-
burg Capitain Steinkellerschen Regiments, an-
getroffen, woselbst sie sich beyde bis gegen
10 Uhr aufgehalten, und hernach im Vorsaal
ihres Zimmers gespeiset, und sich in diesem
Vorsaale bis gegen 11 Uhr auch aufgehalten.

Als er der Herr von Lee hierauf in sein an
diesem Vorsaal stoßendes Zimmer gegangen,
hätte er seinen Schreibtisch aufschließen wollen
und wäre an selbigem gebrauchte Gewalt ge-
wahr geworden, und da er ihn geöfnet, hätte
sein Portefeuille gefehlt. Sogleich habe er den
Corsica gerufen, und diesem den erlittenen Dieb-
stahl durch dessen Frau, da er selbst kein Fran-
zösisch spreche, entdeckt, und habe von dem Cor-
sica begehret, daß er mit ihm zu Sr: Excellenz
dem Herrn General Lieutenant und Gouverneur
von Ramin gehen solle, welches auch geschehen.

Sr. Excellenz von Ramin hätten den von Lee und
den Corsica an ihn den Herrn President Philippi
verwiesen. Noch habe der H von Lee ihm den Herrn
Praesidenten gesagt, daß indem er mit dem Corsica
zu dem Herrn Gouverneur gegangen, der Corsica

ihm verstümmelt französisch zu erkennen gegeben:
daß der Bediente des Englischen Gesandten schon
seit einigen Tagen in seinem Hause aus und ein-
gegangen, und Gelegenheit genommen von dem
von Lee zu sprechen, auch vorgestern dieser Be-
diente des Gesandten geschworen haben solle:

er der Bediente glaube, daß sein Herr
2000 Ducaten gebe, wenn er die Schriften
des Herrn von Lee in seine Hände be-
kommen könnte.

Ferner habe der Corsica ihm gesagt: daß er sogleich
als der H. von Lee ihm diesen Diebstahl offenbahret,
in das Zimmer des von Rosbourgh im bloßen
Hemde gehen wollen, um den vorgefallenen Dieb-
stahl bekannt zu machen, und mit dem Englischen
Gesandten darüber zu reden, der Englische Ge-
sandte hätte aber mit dem von Rosbourgh vor
der Thür des Zimmers gestanden, und wäre eben
im Begriff gewesen weg zu gehen, als er beyden
den Diebstahl entdeckt, und zu dem Englischen
Gesandten gesagt:

das Portefeuille hat Niemand anders als ihr
Bedienter gestohlen.

Was aber hierauf der Gesandte geantwortet, solches
habe ihm der Corsica zwar auch sagen wollen,
wegen Mangel der Sprache aber nicht deutlich
machen können. Der Praesident Philippi zeigte
subscripto ferner an, daß der Corsica nachdem er
sich ohngefehr 1/4 Stunde bey ihm aufgehalten zu
ihm gesagt hätte: er fände nöthig auf einen
Augenblick nach Hause zu gehen, weil ihm ein-
fiele, daß sein Tafeldecker Nahmens Morgraff
welcher ein Soldat Prinz Friedrichschen Regiments ge-
vielleicht bey dem Diebstahl implicirt seyn könte,
und sich absentiren möchte, weshalb er sehen
wollte, ob solcher sich auch noch im Quartier befände.

Nach einigen Minuten sey der Corsica wieder zu ihr, der Herrn Praesidentin gekommen, und habe gesagt:

was dünkt ihnen das Portefeuille ist wieder da, meine frau hat mir erzählet, es hätte sie Jemand von der Straße gerufen und als sie zum Hause heraus getreten hätte derselbe mit dem finger unten an die Treppe gewiesen, sagend:

da liegt was, das gebt sie ihrem Engländer;

und da sey sogleich daran gelaufen, und als sie nach gesehen, wäre solches sein Portefeuille gewesen worinn der Schlüssel gesteckt.

Mein Eheweib habe sofort seinen Vetter Michel Marggraff zu Dr. Hellwig von Klarin geschickt, um ihm als Mann, und dem H von Lee solches wissen zu lassen.

Hierauf hat sich Subscriptus mit dem Herrn Praesident Philippi, dem Herrn von Lee und dem Corsica nach des letztern Hause verfügt.

Hier entdeckte der Herr Praesident Philippi welcher zuerst die Treppe vorgedachten Hauses hinauf gieng, ein Paquett Papier, etwa 3 finger stark, welches mit einem Faden zusammen gebunden war, und dicht vor der Hauss Thür auf der Schwelle lag. Der zugleich hiebey gegenwärtige Corsica sagte hiebey: sehen sie, was ist das für eine unbegreifliche Policey. Meine Nichte Thiergarten hob dieses Paquett auf, der Herr von Lee erkannte solches, und sagte: das sind von meinen Papieren. Die Hauss Thüre war nicht verschloßen sondern nur angelegt, und Subscriptus gieng hierauf mit dem Herrn Praesidenten Philippi und dem Herrn von Lee in das Haus hinein.

Der H von Lee logierte in der untersten Etage rechter Hand beym Eingange des Hauses.

Sie führeten den H. Präsident Philippi und Sub-
stitutum in ihr Zimmer, und wir traten zu-
erst in den Vorsaal, in welchem d. H. v Lee mit
seinen Freunde zu Abend gespeiset.

Gerade an diesem Vorsaale stößet das Zimmer
des Herrn v Lee, und an dieses, das Zimmer sei-
nes Freundes des H. v Sayer.

Wir besahen zu erst den Schreib Tisch welcher
sich in dem Zimmer des H. v Lee befand, und die-
ser bestand aus einer Nußbaumen Comode mit
einem Aufsatz. Oben an der Klappe dieses Auf-
satzes welcher verschlossen werden konnte,
sahe man deutlich an abgesplitterten Holtze, daß
das Schloß mit einem scharfen Instrumente er-
öffnet worden, und dieser Schreib Tisch war
es in welchem das entwandte Portefeuille ge-
legen. Wir fanden in diesem Schreibtische noch
einige kleine Stück Silber Zeug, und der Herr v Lee
versicherte, daß ihm nicht das geringste außer
dem Portefeuille entwendet worden.

Drey Schritt von diesem Schreib Tische stand
auf einem kleinen Tische der Geld Kasten des Herrn
v Lee, eine Spanne hoch und 2 Spannen lang, welcher
stark mit eisernen Bändern beschlagen war, und
versicherte der H. v Lee, daß in dieser Chatoulle
sein Silber Zeug und sein baares Geld liege.

Hierauf wurden die Fenster welche auf die Straße
heraus gehen in Augenschein genommen, an selbigen
wurde keine Gewalt verspühret, wir bemerkten
aber, daß die Scheibe oder die Schlösser, durch welche
das Aufschieben der Fenster verhindert wird, weder
an denen Fenstern des Herrn v Lee, noch seines
neben ihm an wohnenden Freundes des H. v Sayer
zu geschoben waren, der Gestalt daß man füglich
von der Straße her, eins von diesen Fenstern hat
aufschieben und in dieselbe herein steigen können.

Wir fanden nur den Fenstern zugemachte Fenster-
laden, es waren aber die vorhergehenden hölzern
Stangen nicht vorgelegt, und der Herr v Lee fügte
auch befragen des Herrn Praesident Philippi:

als er mit seinem Freunde zu den v Mosterm
gegangen, so wären die Fensterladen noch
nicht zugemacht, und auch nicht zu gemacht ge-
wesen, und nur der Schlüssel während der
Zeit gesteckt sey, da er mit seinem
Freunde bey dem von Hosbaugh gewe-
sen.

An diesen Schlössern der Türe wurde übrigens
keine verübte Gewalt bemerkt.

Hierauf ersuchte der Herr Praesident Philippi
den H v Lee, sein Portefeuille, welches die Herrn
Corsica an sich genommen, nebst denen an der Haus
thür gelegenen Paquett Schriften, genau durchzu-
sehen, ob und was in dem Portefeuille fehlen
möchte. Der H v Lee hat hierauf 2 mal das
Portefeuille und das Paquett welches vor der Haus
thür gefunden worden, aufs genaueste nachge-
sehen und versicherte, daß alle seine Schriften
nicht das allergeringste ausgenommen, völlig wieder
bey sammen wären, versicherte auch dabey, daß
nach seiner Meinung, das Portefeuille im Schreib-
tisch verschlossen, und der Schlüssel desselben, in
der obersten Schublade, welche sich über dem Fache
worinnen das Portefeuille gelegen befindlich ist, ge-
legen habe. Doch könne er diesen Umstand
ob das Portefeuille verschlossen gewesen oder nicht
nicht ganz gewiß behaupten. Er habe sonsten stets
den Schlüssel des Portefeuille bey sich getragen,
und dieses mahl habe er ihn vergessen.

Dieses wiße er aber sehr gewiß daß wenn das
Portefeuille auch nicht verschlossen gewesen, er doch
den Schreibtisch gewiß verschlossen gehabt, von
welchem er den Schlüssel bey sich getragen.

Auch fügte der Herr v. Lee an: daß als er mit dem Herrn v. Sayer von Charlottenburg zurück gekommen, die Thür seines Bureaus verschlossen gewesen, und durch seinen Bedienten erstlich aufgeschlossen worden.

Vorstehendes Protocoll ist übrigens dem Herrn von Lee von Wort zu Wort in französischer Sprache von dem Herrn Praesident Philippi vorgehalten, und in allen vollkommen genehmiget worden. a. u. s.

Philippi Gerresheim.

Eodem

Nr. 2. Hierauf wurde von Subscripto zur ferneren Untersuchung dieses Diebstahls geschritten, und in dieser Absicht der Gastwirth Corsica vorgelaßen, welcher bene admonitus aussagte: er heiße

Johann Friedrich Corsica 39 Jahr alt lutherischer Religion, und sey ein hiesiger angesessener Bürger und Gastwirth,

quoad causam, so wäre der Herr von Lee welcher nebst dem Herrn von Sayer seit 3 Wochen bey Comparenten logire, gestern Abend ohngefehr um 11 Uhr in Comparentens Stube gekommen, und habe seiner Ehefrau entdeckt: daß sein Porte feuille gestohlen worden. Da Comparent dieses von seiner Ehefrau erfahren, sey er aus dem Bette, in welchem er sich bereits befunden, aufgesprungen, und habe sogleich in das Zimmer, in welchem der Lord Rosborough logiret, gehen wollen, um diesen Diebstahl bekant zu machen. Es wäre ihm aber bereits der Englische Gesandte, welcher bey dem H. v. Rosborough zum Besuch gewesen vor der Thür des Zimmers begegnet, und habe weggehen wollen. Comparent habe gleich auf den Bedienten des Englischen Gesandten wegen Entwendung der Portefeuille einen Verdacht geworfen, und da ihm eben der Gesandte begegnete, habe er

zu denselben gerade heraus gesagt:

das Portefeuille des Herrn von Lee ist entwendet, und dieses hat Niemand als Ew. Excellenz bedienter genommen.

der Gesandte habe Comparenten darauf weiter nichts geantwortet, er wolle seinen bedienten stellen, und wäre darauf fortgegangen, habe aber seinen bedienten nicht gestellt. Comparent habe sich darauf sofort angezogen, und sey mit dem Hrn v Lee zu Sr. Excellenz dem Herrn General Lieutenant und Gouverneur von Ramin gegangen, um die Entwendung des Portefeuille zu melden.

Unterwegs habe Comparent auch den Vorfall welchen er mit dem Englischen Gesandten gehabt dem Herrn v Lee erzählet, ihm auch zugleich folgende Ursachen, die bey ihm einen Verdacht wider des Englischen Gesandten bedienten erreget, entdeckt.

1.) habe sich dieser Mensch seit den Tagen an da die HH v Lee und v Sayer bey Comparenten logiret unter allerley Vorwand in Comparenten Hause öfters eingefunden.

2.) sey dieser bediente, wenn Comparent sich nicht irret, auf letzt verwichenen Montag, in sein Haus gekommen, und habe sich nach des Herrn v Lee Kammer diener, der zu eben der Zeit von seinem Herrn dimittiret worden, bey Comparenten erkundiget.

Comparent habe dem Bedienten geantwortet: daß derselbe dimittiret worden sey, und wie er nicht anders wüßte, mit der Warschauer Post bereits von hier bereits weggegangen wäre.

Der bediente habe erwiedert:

dieses wäre schade, sein Herr der Gesandte glaubte er, gebe 2000 Stück Ducaten drum wenn er die Papiere des Herrn v Lee in seine Hände bekommen könnte.

Comparent habe diesem bedienten geantwortet

das wäre keine Sache für einen ehrlichen Mann

Worauf der Bediente ohne sich weiter gegen Comparenten heraus zu laßen fortgegangen.

Comparent habe bedeuteten getragenen Verdacht dem HH v Lee und v Sayer zu hinterbringen, weil er befürchtet, daß wenn der Englische Gesandte diese Erzählung erfahre, er Comparent leicht um einen großen Theil seiner Nahrung kommen möchte, da beständig viele Engländer bey ihm logirten.

Ebendeßhalben habe Comparent seinem Kellner und dem Marquetier Margraff aufs deutlichste anbefohlen auf die Zimmer des HH v Lee genaue Achtung zu geben und seinen Hauptschlüßel aufs sorgfältigste zu verwahren. Als Comparent vorbemeldeter Maßen mit dem HH v Lee zu dem HH General Lieutenant und Gouverneur v Ramin Excellenz gekommen und ihr die Entwendung des Portefeuille entdeckt, hätten gedachte Se Excellenz sie an den HH Geheimen Rath und Stadt Praesidenten Philippi verwiesen.

Sie wären beyderseits dahin gegangen, und als Comparent nur auf einen Augenblick nach Hause gegangen, um, wenn sein Kellner oder der Marquetier Margraff, von diesem Vorfalle wüßte, zu verhüten, daß er nicht entweichen möchte, habe Comparentens Ehefrau ihm erzählet, daß jemand am Hause angeklingelt, und als sie die Thüre aufgemacht, zu ihr gesagt habe, indem er auf der Treppe gestanden und wer sich wieder gezeiget:

Da ist das Portefeuille geben sie es ihrem Engländer.

Comparentens Ehefrau habe diesen Menschen der solches zu ihr gebracht, nicht gekannt, sondern nur so viel wahrgenommen, daß es ein langer Mensch in einem weißen Überrock gewesen.

Comparent habe diesen Vorfall, und daß seine Ehefrau das Portefeuille aufgenommen, dem HH Praesident Philippi angezeiget.

daß ein Paquett Briefschaften sich vor der Haus Thür gefunden, wäre Subscripto bereits bekannt, nähere Umstände wiße Comparent zur Ausmittelung desjenigen der das Portefeuille entwendet, nicht an die Hand zu geben.

Nur müßte er noch anführen daß sein Bedienter oder der Marqueur Margraff einen Schlüßel wie er bereits gesagt, zu dem Zimmer des Herrn v Lee gehabt, daß derselbe gestern Abend den Tisch für den H v Lee und v Sayer gedeckt, auch die Fenster laden in demselben Zimmer zugemacht und dieser Margraff und Comparentens Haus Mädchen die einzigen von Comparentens Leuten wären, die in die Zimmer herein gekommen.

Prael: ratihabit. dimissus:

Ad. 3. Ferner wurde die Verehl. Corsica:

Maria Elisabeth geborene Süßmilchin
34 Jahr alt lutherischer Religion

quoad causam folgender Gestalt bene admonita vernommen:

Comparentin könne nichts weiter als was bereits ihr Ehemann wegen der Entwendung des Portefeuille des Herrn von Lee ausgesagt, anführen.

Der H v Lee sey gestern Abend um 11 Uhr zu Comparentin gekommen, und habe ihr mitgetheilt, daß ihm seine Brieftasche entwendet worden. Sie habe dieses ihrem Ehemanne gesagt, worauf derselbe aus dem Bette aufgestanden, sich angezogen und mit dem Herrn v Lee zu dem General Lieutenant und Gouverneur Herrn v. Ramin Excellenz gegangen. Als der v Lee und ihr Ehemann ohngefehr 1 Stunde weg gewesen, wäre an die Haus Thür geklingelt worden, Comparentin sey heraus gegangen, um zu sehen, wer da wäre. Als sie dieserhalb die Thür geöffnet habe ein ihr unbekannter Mann hergesehen von

mittler Statur, einen weißen Überrock anhabend
auf der obersten Stufe der Treppe gestanden,
und habe Comparentin das Porte feuille, welches i-
nen neben der Treppe befindlichen blinden
Fenster gelegen, gezeiget, und gesagt:

Hier ist das Portefeuille, geben sie es
ihrem Engeländer.

Dieser Mensch sey aber hierauf, doch keiner Com-
parentin nicht sagen wohin, schleunig weg-
gelaufen. Comparentin habe dieses Porte-
feuille an sich genommen, sich über diesen Vor-
fall äußerst verwundert, und wäre damit in
ihre Stube gegangen, so fort aber den Wacht-
habenden Margraff, dem Herrn v Lee und
ihrem Manne nachgeschickt, um ihn zu benach-
richtigen, daß das Portefeuille wieder da wäre.
Der Margraff sey aber zurück gekommen, und
habe ihr gesagt, daß er den Herrn von Lee und
ihren Mann, weder bey Dr Hollwitz v Camin
noch bey dem Englischen Gesandten an welche
beyde Orte, sie ihn hingeschickt angetroffen.
Comparentin könne auch Niemanden dieses
Diebstahls wegen einen gegründeten Verdacht
werfen, doch müsse sie sagen, daß der
ihr Ehemann ihr erzählet, wie der Bediente
des Englischen Gesandten sich gegen ihn heraus-
gelassen:

Sein Herr würde wie er glaubte gern
2000 Ducaten geben, wenn er nur die
Brieffschaften des Herrn v Lee in
die Hände bekommen könnte,

Dieser Umstand allein sey Gedanken bey ihr
wider diesen Bedienten worden.

Der Capitel dieser Margraff, und die Haus Magd
Gnschow, wären übrigens die einzigen gewesen
die in die Zimmer des Herrn von Lil hätten kom-
men können. Praelecta ratificat dimissa.

Eadem

Nr. 4. Ferner wurde vorgefordert und beeidet die
Leib Mutter der Marck Gräfin folgender Ge-
stalt vernommen; Sie heiße Maria Charlotte
gebohrne Gröschwaldin
Witwe Weiß [?] 51 Jahr alt
lutherischer Religion,

Comparentin könne gebeten einige nähere
Umstände, auf welche Art und Weise bei-
zeitlich gestern die Brieftasche des H. v Lil
entwendet worden, und wer dieselbe entwendet
habe, anzuführen. Comparentin habe erstlich in der
Nacht, durch das im Hause entstandene Lärmen,
diesen Vorfall erfahren. So viel halte sie sich
aber verbunden anzuzeigen, daß der Capitel
dieser Margraff vor einigen Tagen überhaupt
in der Küche erzählet, wie der Englische
Gesandtens Bedienter, zu ihm gesagt:

daß sein Herr der Gesandte gerne wenn
es auch 1000 ~~Rthlr~~ wären, daran wen-
den, wenn er nur erfahren könnt
was das für Leute wären, die ihn be-
gleiten, worunter er den Herrn v Lil
und von Seyer [?] verstanden.

Daß der Margraff aber solte gesprochen haben, daß
der Bediente des Englischen Gesandten gesagt
hätte;

daß sein Herr eine starke Belohnung
versprach setzte, um die Papiere des
Herrn von Lil zu erhalten,

davon habe Comparentin nichts gehöret, und könne

auch aber so wenig sagen, wer nachhero in der
Stube gegenwärtig gewesen, als der Margraff
durchs gegangen.

Praevia Prael: et rat: dimissus.

Eodem

No. 5. Gleicher Gestalt wurde die Dienstmagd des Geh. Raths Corsica

Dorothea Maria Margaretha gebohrne Buschow 15 Jahr alt, reformirter Religion, aus Berlin gebürtig, deren Vater ein Zeugmacher, und in der Roß Straße im Kützstraßschen Hause wohnet,

folgender Gestalt quoad causam beat admonita vernommen. Comparentin könne keine Umstände wodurch derjenige der die Brief Tasche des Herrn v Lee entwendet, ausgemittelt werden könte anzeigen, und habe sie diesen Diebstahl erstlich jetzt von ihrer Brodtfrau der Frau Corsicka erfahren. Comparentin habe gestern Nachmittag um 2 Uhr als der Herr von Lee und von Sayer ausgefahren ihre Zimmer reine gemacht, und sich dazu den Schlüssel, aus der Stube ihrer Herrschaft, woselbst er auf dem Fenster gelegen geholet. Gegen 3 Uhr sey sie mit dem reine machen dieser Zimmer fertig geworden, habe die Thüre des Vorsaals feste zu geschloßen und darauf den Schlüßel wieder an den Ort wo sie ihn weg genommen hin gelegt.

Comparentin habe als sie die Zimmer rein gemacht, auch nicht das allergeringste verdächtige wahrgenommen! Alle Fenster der Zimmer wären zu gewesen, außer das eine im Vorzimmer

welches das nächste an der Thüre habe, sich auch zu-
schoben befunden, welches Comparentin auch aufge-
schlossen. Um 3/4 auf 4 Uhr sey der Aufwärter
Margraff zu Comparentin in die Küche gekommen,
und habe zu ihr gesagt:

die Komode in des Herrn von Lee Zimmer
stünde offen, ob Comparentin dieses nicht
als sie rein gemacht wahr genommen?

Sie habe darauf erwiedert: als sie rein gemacht,
habe sie solches nicht wahr genommen; im Ge-
gentheil sey die Klappe des Schreib Tisches zu-
gewesen. Comparentin da der Margraff wieder zu
ihr gesagt, daß das Fenster auf stehe, und welche
jemand herein gestiegen seyn möchte, habe sich
den Schlüssel aus ihrer Herrschaft Stube geholet,
um nach zu sehen, ob auch nichts von denen
Sachen, die in dem Zimmer herum gelegen, und
die sie aufgeräumet, entwendet seyn möchten.
Sie habe aber wie sie es aufgeräumet wie-
der gefunden, außer daß die Klappe des Schreib
Tisches, welche als sie rein gemacht noch zu-
gewesen, nun wider ordentlich offen gestanden,
und nieder geklappt gewesen.

Sie habe auch wahrgenommen daß an das Schl-
an derselben eingestoßen, etwas von dem Holz
los gebrochen gewesen.

In dem Schreib Tische habe Comparentin ein
ledernes kleines Kästchen gesehen, auch nichts als ein
Horn Glas und einige Kleinigkeiten darin wahr
genommen, die sie doch nicht weiter betrachtet,
sondern die Klappe des Schreib Tisches wieder her-
unter gelegt, ob diese dadurch zu geschlossen
worden oder nicht, das wisse sie nicht; hiernächst

alsdann wieder aus dem Zimmer, nachdem sie es zu-
geschlossen, gegangen, und hätte die Schlüssel wie-
der an den gewöhnlichen Ort hin gelegt.

Auf Befragen warum Comparentin diesen Vor-
fall nicht ihrer Brodtherrschaft angezeiget,
sagte sie, sie hätte dieses eigentlich thun
sollen, indessen da sie nichts vermisset, so
habe sie es für unnöthig gehalten, überdem
aber auch geglaubet, daß es der Margraff
wohl thun würde der Herrschaft gemeldet haben.

Weiter wisse Comparentin nichts anzuführen
und wurde hierauf praevia Lect: et rat:
demittiret.

Eodem

No. 8. Gestellet sich auf Erfordern der Lohn Bedient
Jacob Cronier 33 Jahr alt, reformir-
ter Religion, aus Friedrichsdorff
bey Frankfurth am Mayn gebürthig
und ließ sich vel ad quaest: [illegible] folgender
Gestalt vernehmen.

Comparent habe den Herrn von Lee und den
Herrn v Jäger, so lange als sie hier
bey Berlin sich auf hielten, und dieses
sey ungefehr seit 3 Wochen, aufgewartet.

Gestern Nachmittage wären die beyde Herrn
nach Charlottenburg gefahren, und hätten Com-
parenten mit genommen, er habe den Saal
wie gewöhnlich zu verschließen, und den
Schlüssel an den Wirth abgegeben, um halb
9 Uhr Abends wären sie von Charlottenburg
zurück gekommen, und hätten darauf den
Englischen Lord Gosborough, der auch bey dem
Corsica wohnte, eine Visite gemacht.

Comparent hätte hierauf in dem Zimmer des Herrn von Lee und v Sayer drüben geholfen(?), und bey dieser Gelegenheit wäre ihm von dem Margraff erzählet worden, daß als die Herren weg gewesen, sey er in die Zimmer gegangen, und habe die Schreib Commode offen gefunden. Er habe sich darüber verwundert(?), solches dem Mädchen bezeugt, und dieselbe gefragt, ob sie ein Schlüssel auf gelassen, welches sie aber wieder bestritten. Comparent habe sich bey dem Margraff erkundiget ob er etwas vermißt, worauf der Margraff mit Nein geantwortet. Comparent habe auch noch selbst die Klappe des Schreib Tisches angefaßt, solche sey aber wiederum verschlossen gewesen.

Weil Comparent geglaubt, daß nach Anzeige des Margraff nichts entwendet, so habe er solches nicht einmal den Herren v Lee und v Sayer angezeiget.

Übrigens sey der Bediente des H. Sächsischen(?) Gesandten bey ihm(?) täglich im Hause des Corsica gewesen, habe sich sehr sorgfältig bey Comparenten und dem Bedienten des Margraff erkundiget, wo die Herren wären, ob sie viel Geschäfte hätten, wer zu ihnen käme, und wo sie hin zu gehen pflegten, und habe sich auch verlauten(?) lassen, daß sein Herr demjenigen der die bewußten Briefe ihm brächte, gerne 1000 Stück Louis d'or zur recompense geben würde. Comparent glaubt(?) daß der Margraff hätte dem Bedienten darauf geantwortet: das wäre eine infame

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Caraille die sich dazu gebrauchen ließe, indeßen habe Comparent solches niemahls für wahr gehalten, weil er den Bedienten für sehr lügenhaft angesehen. Comparent sey übrigens gestern Abend vor zwanzig Uhr und halb Uhr weggegangen, habe nichts eher als heute früh von diesem Diebstahl gehöret, und wiße weiter nichts anzuführen.

Prael: rat: Sign.

Gerresheim.

Actum Berlin den 27ten Junius 1777.

In Gegenwart des Herrn Lieutenant v Dykern.

No. 7. Auf Befehl Sr: Excellenz des Herrn General Lieutenant und Gouverneur von Ramin wurde der Musquetier Margraff von dem hochlöbl. Regiment Sr Durchl. des Prinz Friedrich von Braunschweig, des Herrn Major von Schlader Compagnie vorgelaßen, und folgender Gestalt verel admonitus vernommen: heißt

Johann Friedrich Margraff, sey 24 Jahr alt, lutherischer Religion, aus dem Amte Marienwalde gebürtig, er stehe 7 Jahre bey dem gedachten hochlöbl. Regimente, und befinde sich seit 3 Jahre bey dem Gastwirth Corsica als Aufwärter in Condition,

Quaestionis causam, so könne Comparent keine nähern Umstände anzeigen, auf welche Art und durch wem denen beyden Americanischen Cavalliers die bey dem Corsica logirten, gestern

die Brief-Tasche aus dem Schreib-Tische ent-
wendet worden. Er sey gestern Abend
zwischen 11 und 12 Uhr gewahr worden, daß Comparent
den Tisch bey dem Kleiderschrank bey dem Corsica
logierenden Lord Roxburgh, bey welchem
der Prinz v. Coburg und der Englische Gesandte
gespeiset, abgeräumet habe u. als Compa-
rent aus demselben Zimmer auf den Flur
gekommen, habe der Herr von Lee welcher
dem Lord Roxburgh gegen über logirte,
vom Comparenten verlangt, die Schuhe seines
Hausherrn, welche bereits wie gewöhnlich von
dem Corsica Bedienten Granger weggestellet worden
gewesen, zu wichsen. Comparent habe die-
selbe gethan worauf der Herr v Lee nach-
verlangt den Corsica oder dessen Ehefrau
zu sprechen verlangt, Comparent habe
der Corsica die bereits zu Bette gegangen
gerufen, und als diese heraus gestanden habe
ihr der Herr v Lee angezeiget, wie ihm
aus dem Schreibtische seine Brief Tasche
entwendet worden.

Die Corsica habe solches ihrem Ehemann
gesagt, dieser sey aus dem Bette aufge-
sprungen, und wäre gerade Wegs in
den Zimmer des Lord Roxburgh, wo
Prinz v Coburg und der Englische Gesandte
versammlet gewesen gelaufen, als bey an
die Thür derselben gekommen, wäre der
Englische Gesandte, und wenn Comparent
sich nicht irre auch der Prinz von Coburg
ihm bereits heraus gewesen weg zu gehen.

Der Corsica habe darauf dem Englischen Gesandten gerade ins Gesicht gesagt:
Daß Kromond als Englischer Bedienter die Brief Tasche entwendet, und daß dieser sich verlauten laßen, daß Sr. Excellenz 2000 Rthl. Ducaten, dem zum Dienste geben würden, der ihm die Papiere der beyden Cavaliere verschafte.
Der Gesandte habe darauf erwiedert;
das solte mein Bedienter gesagt haben, daß ich 2000 Reichsthaler darauf gesezt hätte, ich werde ihn gleich her schicken,
und wären darauf fort gegangen, der Bediente hätte sich aber nicht einfinden.
Der Herr v. Lee und Corsica wären hierauf zu Sr. Excellenz von Mann gegangen, um diesen Vorfall zu melden, und Compadre habe sich zu Bette verfügt.
Kaum möchte er aber eine halbe Viertel Stunde geschlafen haben, so habe ihn die Corsica wieder geweckt, und zu ihm gesagt: daß die Brief Tasche wieder da wäre, und daß sie ihr ein Unbekannter vor die Küche gebracht, Compadre möchte so fort zu Sr. Excellenz von Mann nachlaufen, und es ihrem Manne und dem Herrn v. Lee hinterbringen, und wenn er sie da nicht antreffe, sie bey dem Englischen Gesandten aufsuchen.
Er habe sich auch an beyde vorgemeldete Orte hinverfügt, aber daselbst keinen den H. v. Lee als den Corsica angetroffen,

worauf er wieder zu Hauße gegangen.

Weiter zeige ich an daß der Teutsche bedienter des Englischen Gesandten, so bald der Hr v Lee und v Sayer bey Corsica sich einlogirt, fast täglich ins Hauß gekommen, sich sehr genau erkundiget was die beyde Cavallier fur Umgang hätten, wer zu ihnen käme, und was sie eigentlich hier machten. derselbe habe auch schon oft zu Corsica als Comparenten und dem Kellner u. Diener Trogler gesagt:

wer seinen Herren die Papiere derselben ausfindig machen könnte, solle eine Belohnung von 100 Louis d'or oder 100 Ducaten erhalten

worauf sie ihm aber sämtlich wieder schriftlich versichert, daß sie damit keiner abgeben könnten, noch würden, weil selbes ein schlechter Streich seyn würde.

Gestern Nachmittag gleich nach 12 Uhr habe sich der mehrerwehnte Bediente des Engl. Gesandten wiederum eingefunden, und den Lord Rosbourgh zu Tische gebethen. bey dieser Gelegenheit habe derselbe Comparenten gefragt: ob die beyden Americaner auch zu Hauße wären? worauf er zur Antwort ertheilet, daß sie nach Charlottenburg verreiset wären, worauf selber ohne weiter etwas zu sagen weg gegangen. Gegen 4 Uhr als Comparent dem Lord Rosbourgh auf Verlangen ein Wasser gebracht, habe er in dem Zimmer des Herrn v Lee und von Sayer das eine Fenster

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in der Vorkammer, welches das 2te an der Treppe gewesen, welches vorher bereits aufgestanden, und er vermuthlich die Thüre selbst aufgemacht haben würde, zu machen wollen. Comparent sey hierzu um so mehr bewogen worden, da ihm der Cochica ausdrücklich befohlen, seinen Haupt-Schlüssel ja in Acht zu nehmen, und behutsam zu verfahren, damit denen Fremden nichts entwendet würde; da er in dieser Absicht in das Zimmer gegangen habe er dasselbe leer gefunden, und zugleich untersuchen wollen, ob das Mädchen auch nicht bey den Kammerchen in dem andern Zimmer etwa aufgehalten. Als er in das Zimmer welches eigentlich der Herr von Lee bewohnet, gekommen, habe er den Schreibtisch erbrochen und die Klagerin dasselbe verdrießlich herumgeklagt gefunden. Comparent habe sich darüber sehr gewundert, und in den Schreibtisch die brief dafür nicht mehr gesehen, welche er sonsten wenn er das Zimmer licht herein gebracht, darinnen erst zu nennen. Comparent habe sogleich das Mädchen gerufen, und sie gefragt, ob sie schon seit als sie die Zimmer rein gemacht den Schreibtisch offen gefunden? welche solches aber verneinet, und könne Comparent nicht bezeugen nicht, ob das Mädchen der Klagerin auf dieser Zeit weiter zu gemacht, oder nicht er habe sich nicht weiter darum bekümmert.

Da sich Comparent nicht vorstellen können

daß dem Diebstahl wirklich verübet worden, er auch nicht wahr genommen, daß an dem Schloße Gewalt geschehen, so habe er in der Meinung gestanden, daß H. v. Lee selbst den Schrank Tisch etwa fest leßen, und die Brieftaschen verzaubert hatte. dieses sey auch die Ursache gewesen, daß er weder den Wirth, noch denen übrigen, auch selbsten dem fremden Cavallier nichts davon gesagt habe, außer daß er es dem Ebinger nach dem Abend erzählet.

Weiter wüßte Comparent nichts anzuführen, als daß der Bediente des Englischen Gesandten gestern Abend mit Ulrich zu ihm gesagt:

daß er gestern Mittag um 3 Uhr den Bedienten welchem die Americaner bereits am Sontage verabschiedet, und welcher versprochen den Montag mit abzureisen zu wollen, gestern mittag um 3 Uhr in der Straße gesehen zu haben

daß er ihn aber gesprochen, davon er nichts wüßte.

Comparenten wurde noch diese seine Sage vorgelesen, und der hier solche allen gehörig darauf bestättiget.

a. v. s. Gerresheim.

Lieut: v Dyhern.
Regim: Prinz Friedrich.

Vorstehende Abschriften sind mit denen Originalen

Praecollirte Facti relationes in allen gleichlautend befunden worden, welches hierdurch pflichtmäßig attestirt wird. Berlin d. 5. Julius 1777.

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Criminal-Rath

Presented to the
American Philosophical
Society by

Jany 19. 1827